

MANW  
QL  
671  
P96  
V81  
no.1  
2015

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 1 January 2015

### THE MONTH: December

*Michael DeSha*

According to David Thomas of the National Weather Service, this month was "a mild December with a lack of typical lake-effect snow." The month started with typical winter cold and some snow. But by the end of the second week, a pattern change brought warm Pacific air across the Great Lakes and this flow kept the region virtually snow-free for the remainder of the month.

The average temperature for the month was 33.5°F, 3.4°F above normal. The daily highs never reached into the 60's throughout the month and the coldest temperature of the month, 15°F, occurred on December 31<sup>st</sup>. There were only two days this month when the temperature dropped into the teens, making this the ninth December on record that had only two days or less with temperatures in the teens.

Precipitation for the month totaled 2.15 inches at the Buffalo airport, 1.74 inches below the average of 3.89 inches. Rainfall accounted for about 75% of this total. Snowfall for the month was recorded at 11.3 inches, 16.1 inches below average, and less than fell in November of this year. This marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> time in Buffalo records, and the first time since 1986 that more snowfall occurred in the previous November of the year. There was a record daily non-lake-effect snowfall of 8.0 inches on the 11<sup>th</sup>, but this month had very little lake-effect snow to speak of. The five days of measurable snowfall at the airport tied the record for least amount of days with measurable snowfall in the past 70 years.

A cold front crossed the region on Christmas Eve bringing damaging wind gusts of up to 57 MPH on

- |    |   |                             |
|----|---|-----------------------------|
| 1  | <b>The Month</b>                        | Christmas Day               |
|    | <i>Michael DeSha</i>                    | across the                  |
| 3  | <b>Statisticians' 2014 Review</b>       | Niagara Frontier,           |
|    | <i>Mike Morgante</i>                    | downing power               |
| 4  | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>               | poles and trees.            |
|    | <i>Joe Mitchell &amp; Statisticians</i> | The temperature             |
| 8  | <b>Bird Quiz</b>                        | of Lake Erie at             |
|    | <i>Sue Barth</i>                        | Buffalo dropped             |
| 9  | <b>Marsh Monitoring Program</b>         | from 42°F at the            |
|    | <i>David Spiering</i>                   | start of the                |
| 10 | <b>Calendar</b>                         | month to 38°F by            |
|    | <b>2014 Index Addendum</b>              | December 31 <sup>st</sup> , |
|    | <i>Karen Landau</i>                     | about 3°F above             |



the normal lake temperature for this time.

The birding reflected the mildness of the weather. There were several lingering species not ordinarily found in our region in December, including the Eurasian Tree Sparrow first reported in November, which throughout the month continued frequenting the feeder at the home of Craig Corcoran in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.



(Top) Ross's Goose photographed by Brendan Klick at Beaver Island on December 26<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Blue-gray Gnatcatcher photographed by Bruce DiLabio at Port Weller, Ontario on December 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
skalicky@biochem.utah.edu

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Editorial Consultants: Robert Andrie, Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Gerry Rising, William Watson, Mike Zebehazy

#### Society Officers:

President: Thomas O'Donnell  
V. President: Michael Morgante  
Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
Secretary: Donna DeLeon  
Statisticians: Tim Baird  
Willie D'Anna  
Mike Morgante  
Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

#### Council:

2012-2014	Douglas Beattie Karen Lee Lewis David Suggs
2013-2015	Joseph Fell Michael Galas Lynne Landon
2014-2016	Ron Hacker Marsha Heckle Debbie Suggs

There were other unexpected vagrants as well. Watson and others found a first-winter Laughing Gull at Dunkirk Harbor City Pier on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Pawlicki et al. provided additional records through the 25<sup>th</sup>. The occurrence of this species in our region is considered irregular. Sightings have been recorded in every month but it is still rare enough that this species requires a verification report. Watson noted the distinctions between this observed species and Franklin's Gulls which have been recorded in previous years in this prime gull habitat. The other vagrant of note was a Eurasian Collared-Dove in the Town of Wilson seen at the home of Ann and Charles

Horton from the 26<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> and well-photographed by them. This introduced species is ubiquitous in the South and Southwest and is slowly expanding its range. This report marks the first December record of this species in our region.

A first-fall Ross's Goose was seen throughout the month at Beaver Island State Park on Grand Island by multiple observers. Watson provided a verification report of his and D'Anna's December 13<sup>th</sup> sighting. Gralak reported a high count of 35 Snow Geese at Alabama on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Mark et al. found a wing-tagged Trumpeter Swan at Beaver Island State Park. It stayed from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>.

Tozer and Nelson recorded a single King Eider at Port Weller, Ontario on the 1<sup>st</sup>. D'Anna reported 46 White-winged Scoters on the 4<sup>th</sup> at Fort Niagara State Park and Morse counted 61 in Olcott on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Morien and Barth reported 2000 Bufflehead at Buffalo Harbor on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Guthrie found a Barrow's Goldeneye at Port Breeze on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Lenz et al. followed up with a sighting on the 7<sup>th</sup>. Lenz, Pawlicki and Salembier found an Eared Grebe at Evangola State Park on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Black Vultures continue in residence near the Niagara River. Street reported seeing four in Niagara

Falls on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Other rare and vagrant gull species that appear consistently in late fall and early winter are always a treat for gull-watchers. Pawlicki located two Black-legged Kittiwakes and Mitchell independently found one on the 3<sup>rd</sup> at Buffalo Harbor. Pawlicki and Mitchell also found a Little Gull in Yates on the 1<sup>st</sup> and Pawlicki spotted 3 Little Gulls at Buffalo Harbor on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Coleman found one at Adam Beck on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Interestingly, Iceland Gulls and Glaucous Gulls were spotted well away from their usual locations. As reported by Lenz and Morris, Cuba Lake hosted 2 Iceland Gulls on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> as well as up to 3



(Top) Laughing Gull photographed by Sue Barth at Dunkirk Harbor on December 24<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Snowy Owl photographed by Brendan Klick at Oakfield on December 29<sup>th</sup>.

Glaucous Gulls on the same dates. Ieff saw two Iceland Gulls on the 23<sup>rd</sup> in Angelica. On the 24<sup>th</sup>, four Iceland Gulls were found at Goat Island, a more traditional location, by Pawlicki, Callaghan and Morton. Pawlicki and Watson reported another Glaucous Gull in Evans on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The irruption of numerous Snowy Owls into our area this December came close to matching the numbers reported last year. Last year, of course, saw the greatest influx of Snowy Owls into the northern states that had ever been reported. Could we be seeing the beginning of a pattern of winter migration into our region? As to the reports for this December, Barton on the 2<sup>nd</sup> found four at Buffalo Harbor and Lenz saw the same number there on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Hardenburg spotted four at Dunkirk Harbor on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Multiple observers saw one to two individuals at 23 locations throughout the month.

On the 4<sup>th</sup>, Vanstrom reported a Short-eared Owl at the Jamestown Airport, a new location for this species. Morien reported seeing five on the 20<sup>th</sup> in Shelby. Walters spotted a single individual in Cambria on the 9<sup>th</sup> and another at the Niagara Falls Airport on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Yoerg found one in Dunnville, Ontario on the 7<sup>th</sup>.

Zebahazy and Russell saw Red-headed Woodpeckers at Lakeside Cemetery during the month. Vidler found a lingering Yellow-bellied Sapsucker on the 15<sup>th</sup> in East Aurora.

Common Ravens continue their advance north from the Southern Tier of New York. Galas reported two in Tonawanda on the 14<sup>th</sup>. O'Donnell spotted two at Whirlpool State Park on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

DiLabio found a lingering Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on the 1<sup>st</sup> in Port Weller, Ontario. Several Yellow-rumped Warblers taking advantage of the weather remained in our region. Strong saw one on the 27<sup>th</sup> in Newfane; Guthrie found one at Four Mile Creek State Park on the 28<sup>th</sup>; and D'Anna reported one in Porter on the 28<sup>th</sup>. A Baltimore Oriole seen and photographed by Giambra stayed in Forestville until the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month.

D'Anna spotted a Savannah Sparrow feeding among flocks of other sparrows including White-crowned Sparrows and Tree Sparrows on the shoulder of West Somerset Road in Newfane on December 13<sup>th</sup>. He noted its smaller size, pale median crown stripe, and heavily streaked ventral body before using his scope for a definitive ID. This December 13<sup>th</sup> date is well beyond the last expected date of November 6<sup>th</sup> for this species in the latest Verification Date Guide and is the first December record for this species.

The highlight of the St. Catherine, Ontario CBC on December 14 was a Harris's Sparrow found by Dobos and Charlton. In their E-bird report, they noted its white breast with an inverted triangle of black markings on the upper breast, pink bill, white throat and very even black streaking on the crown. As they stated, this was a quality find for a southern Ontario CBC. There were two reports of Oregon subspecies Dark-eyed Juncos. One was found on the 5<sup>th</sup> by Vandermuelen and Szmyr in Fort Erie, Ontario, and the other remained in Colden for a few days from the 20<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> as reported by Landau and Wojewodzki.

## Statisticians Note Regarding the Year (2014) in Review

*Mike Morgante*

The 2014 total for species, subspecies, and named hybrids was 297. This is the second most since I started keeping track in 2008 and only four less than 2013's remarkable total of 301. This year started slowly compared to previous years but rallied starting in late summer with more new species added in August, as well as November, than in most years. One of the highlights for many was the excellent habitat at west Ruddy Marsh, Tonawanda WMA, where birders had good views of an excellent diversity of shorebirds during the summer months.

It was another good year for rarities, including one new species in the BOS Study Area. The Eurasian Tree Sparrow that was discovered coming to a feeder in Niagara-on-the-Lake in late November was unexpected even though this species has demonstrated vagrancy from its restricted U.S. range. Very rare species with accepted records in 2014 included: Tufted Duck, Common Eider, Western Grebe, Tricolored Heron, White Ibis, Ruff, Long-tailed Jaeger, Eurasian Collared-Dove, White-winged Dove, LeConte's Sparrow, Harris's Sparrow, and Yellow-headed Blackbird. There were few "misses" in 2014, but the following are species that are identified with at least some regularity in the study area, which were not documented in 2014: Snowy Egret, Hudsonian Godwit, Western Sandpiper, Dickcissel, Pine Grosbeak, and Red Crossbill.

The Statisticians thank everyone who submitted sightings in this past year. Your contributions make up the noteworthy records and the ornithological record of the Society. We also thank Bruce Chilton for his many years compiling the sightings from your e-mails, letters, and the eBird records summary that I sent him each month. We thank Joe Mitchell who took over as compiler in October and has caught on quickly. We appreciate the efforts of many others that helped us solicit and/or obtain verification reports or simply more details on sightings. This collective effort helps bring more reports (and even more species) to the noteworthy records every month.



Common Redpoll photographed by Sue Barth at Hemlock Ridge Road in Medina on December 11<sup>th</sup>.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	1; 2	2	Batavia WWTP	Morien, Barth; Watson
"	1	4	Albion	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	14	35	Alabama	Gralak
"	21	4	Point Breeze	Lawrence
"	26; 27	1	Olcott	Strong; Benedetti
"	28	1	Findley Lake	Buczynski
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	1-31	1 PV	Beaver Island SP	Watson, Multiple Observers
Cackling Goose	1	4	Albion	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	2	3	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	7	1	Beaver Island SP	Coleman
"	29	2	Iroquois NWR	Watson
Trumpeter Swan	6-14	1	Beaver Island SP	Mark et al
Tundra Swan	4; 30	136; 185	Beaver Island SP	Watson; Sharon
"	14	270	Willoughby, ON.	Watson
Wood Duck	14	1	Tonawanda	Galas, Rising
Gadwall	4	14	Cuba Lake	Morris
American Black Duck	5; 9	32; 57	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Lawrence
"	29	41	Oak Orchard WMA	Hartquist, Martin
Mallard	2	1150	Batavia WWTP	Watson
Northern Shoveler	2; 5; 14	114; 64; 36	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morien; Beattie
"	28	3	Bemus Point	Stineman
Northern Pintail	20	34	Cuba Lake	Lenz
Green-winged Teal	2; 5; 9	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson; Morien; Lawrence
"	7	2	Cuba Lake	Morris
Redhead	4	110	Buffalo Harbor	Johnson, Davis, Gochfeld
Ring-necked Duck	9	7	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
"	21	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	26	10	Buckhorn Island SP	Sharon
Greater Scaup	3	300	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	14	327	Willoughby, ON.	Watson
Lesser Scaup	3	75	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	22	30	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
King Eider	1	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Tozer, Nelson
Harlequin Duck	8; 24	1	Goat Island	D'Anna et al; Pawlicki et al
Surf Scoter	4	3	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	12	14	Buffalo Harbor	Watson
"	20	11	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	21	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
White-winged Scoter	4	46	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	20	61	Olcott	Morse
Black Scoter	5; 21- 23	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher; Watson; Pawlicki
Long-tailed Duck	22	60	Buffalo Harbor	Lenz
"	28	159	Four Mile Creek SP	Guthrie
Bufflehead	4	2000	Buffalo Harbor	Morien, Barth
Common Goldeneye	4	350	Goat Island	Johnson, Davis, Gochfeld
"	14	672	Willoughby, ON.	Watson
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	6; 7	1	Point Breeze	Guthrie; Lenz et al

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Hooded Merganser	23	82	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	31	27	Tonawanda	Barton
Red-breasted Merganser	3	400	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	14	319	Beaver Island SP	Coleman
Ruddy Duck	1, 12	12, 5	Batavia WWTP	Morien
"	7	3	Cassadaga Lake	VerHague
"	16	1	Point Breeze	MacDonald
"	20	1	Cuba Lake	Lenz
"	22	25	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	27	6	Buckhorn Island SP	Sharon
Red-throated Loon	4	12	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	14	19	Willoughby, ON.	Watson, Brenner
"	28	18, 21	Four Mile Creek SP	Guthrie, D'Anna
Common Loon	4	3	Cuba Lake	Morris
"	14	4	Willoughby, ON.	Watson
"	27	2	Goat Island	Coleman
Horned Grebe	22	80	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	22	124	Evangola SP	Lenz
Red-necked Grebe	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Watson
"	3	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	7; 21; 23	1	Point Breeze	Lenz; Lawrence; Scheibel
"	26	2	Buckhorn Island SP	Sharon
"	28	1, 2, 3	Four Mile Creek SP	Morse, Guthrie, D'Anna
Eared Grebe	22, 23	1	Evangola SP	Lenz; Pawlicki; Salembier
Double-crest. Cormorant	21	103	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
<u>Black Vulture</u>	1	4	Niagara Falls	Street
Turkey Vulture	14	1	St. Catharines, ON.	Gardener et al
"	27	1; 2	Lewiston	Coleman; Mashburn
"	23	1	Eagle	Anderson
Bald Eagle	23	6	Evangola SP	Pawlicki
"	27	2	Squaw Island	Kerr, Rose-Burney, Coleman
"	29	2	Oak Orchard WMA	Hartquist, Martin
Northern Harrier	8, 18, 20	2, 4, 6	Shelby	Morien
Northern Goshawk	14	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Street
Red-shouldered Hawk	9	1	Portland	Hardenburg
"	20	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
"	22	2	New Hudson	Lawrence
"	27	1	Buckhorn Island SP	Leech
"	29	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Galas, Hacker
Rough-legged Hawk	2	1	Yates	D'Anna
"	11	1	Shelby	Barth
"	20	1	Cuba	Lenz
"	21	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Jacklin, Seburn
"	23	1	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
American Coot	22; 23	500; 250	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz; Stineman
Purple Sandpiper	1; 7	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna et al; Carpentier
Dunlin	30	1	Niagara Falls	Hannah
Black-legged Kittiwake	3	2; 1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki; Mitchell
Bonaparte's Gull	3	1750	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Little Gull	1	1	Yates	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	3	3	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	27	1	Adam Beck Hydro	Coleman
<u>Laughing Gull</u>	21-25	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Pawlicki et al
Herring Gull	4	4000	Goat Island	Johnson, Davis, Gochfeld
Iceland Gull	20; 22	2	Cuba Lake	Lenz; Morris
"	23	2	Angelica	Iliff
"	24	4	Goat Island	Pawlicki, Callaghan, Horton
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	6	Goat Island	Johnson, Davis, Gochfeld
"	21	2	Cuba Lake	Lenz
"	23	2	Angelica	Iliff
Glaucous Gull	20; 22	3; 2	Cuba Lake	Lenz; Morris
"	23	1	Evans	Pawlicki, Watson
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	26-31	1	Wilson(f)	C&A Horton
Snowy Owl	2, 22	4	Buffalo Harbor	Barton; Lenz

<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	17	4	Dunkirk Airport	Hardenburg
"	1-31	1-2	23 Locations	Multiple Observers
Short-eared Owl	4	1	Jamestown Airport	Vanstrom
"	7	1	Dunnville, ON.	Yoerg
"	8, 20	1, 5	Shelby	Morien
"	9	1	Cambria	Walters
"	10	1	Niagara Falls Airport	Walters
Red-headed Woodpecker	1-11, 12-31	2, 1	Lakeside Cemetery	Zebehazy, Russell
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	15	1	East Aurora	Vidler
Merlin	7	1	Niagara Falls	Landau, Wojewodzki
"	13	1	Fort Erie, ON.	Jacklin, BonEnfant
"	14	1	Buffalo	Landau
"	14	1	Grand Island	Mitchell
"	18	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	23	1	West Seneca	Landau
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	Buffalo Harbor	Barton
"	7; 14	1	Beaver Island SP	Humann,Coleman; Mitchell
"	22; 23; 31	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz; Pawlicki; VerHague
"	3, 23	1, 2	Grand Island	Humann
Northern Shrike	7-29	1-2	10 Locations	Multiple Observers
Common Raven	11, 14	1, 2	Tonawanda	Galas
"	27	2	Whirlpool SP	O'Donnell
Horned Lark	11, 13	50, 38	Shelby	Morien
"	12	45	Bethany	Beattie
Winter Wren	6; 14	1	Beaver Island SP	Kent; Mitchell
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	1	1	Port Weller, ON.	DiLabio
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	1	1	Port Colborne, ON.	Timpf
"	27	1	Goat Island	Coleman
Hermit Thrush	1	1	Yates	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	1	1	Tifft NP	Gralak
"	7	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence et al
"	20	1; 1	Wilson	D'Anna, Morien, Barth; D'Anna
"	28	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Guthrie
Northern Mockingbird	12	1	Kiantone	Berry
"	14	1	Almond	Beaudry
"	22	2	New Hudson	Lawrence
Lapland Longspur	11, 13; 13	2, 3; 1	Shelby	Morien; Rycenga
Snow Bunting	13	70	Shelby	Morien
"	12	35	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	23	48	Youngstown	Kundl
Yellow-rumped Warbler	22	1	Newfane	Strong
"	28	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Guthrie
"	28	1	Porter	D'Anna
Chipping Sparrow	5, 9, 23	2, 1, 1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Savannah Sparrow</u>	13	1	Newfane	D'Anna
Fox Sparrow	1	1	Tifft NP	Gralak
"	2	1	Celeron	Leenders
Swamp Sparrow	6; 14	1; 4	Beaver Island SP	Pawlicki, Salembier; Mitchell
"	27	1	Birdsong Park	Morgante
"	28	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Guthrie
* <u>Harris's Sparrow</u>	14	1	St. Catherines, ON.	Charlton, Dobos
White-crowned Sparrow	6, 9, 20	14, 9, 21	Wilson	D'Anna , Potter
"	13	6	Newfane	D'Anna
"	28	1	Youngstown	Guthrie
<u>Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)</u>	5	1	Fort Erie, ON.	Vandermeulen, Szmyr
"	20-27	1 PV	Colden	Landau, Wojewodzki
Red-winged Blackbird	18	4	Tonawanda	Watson
"	28	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Guthrie
Rusty Blackbird	1	3	Tifft NP	Gralak
"	14	1	Iroquois NWR	Gralak
Common Grackle	12	1	Portland	Hardenburg
"	14	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna, Potter
Brown-headed Cowbird	29	30	Albion	Morien, Barth

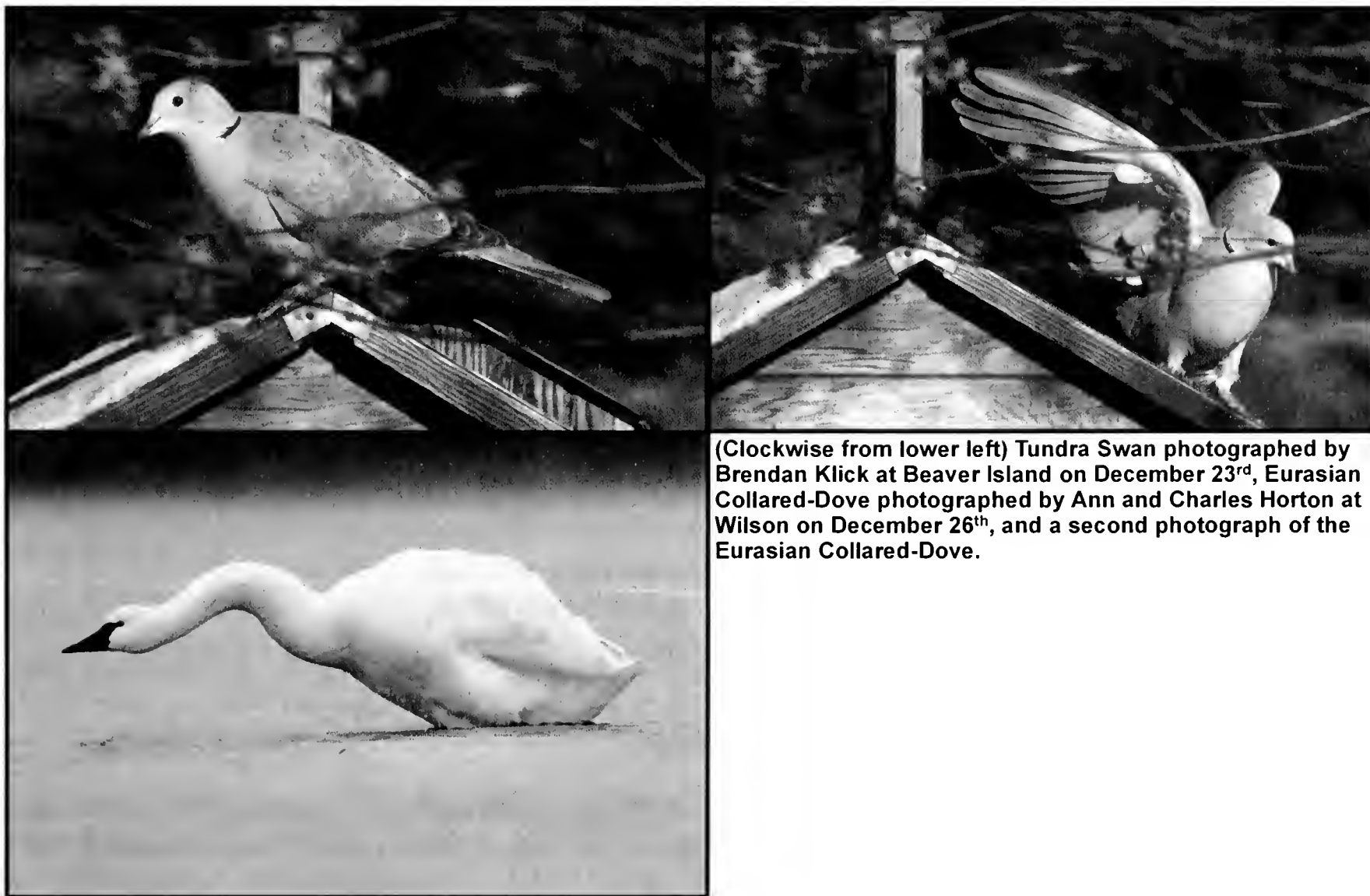
<u>Species</u>	<u>December</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Baltimore Oriole</u>	1-20	1	Forestville(f)	Giambra
Purple Finch	2	2	Celeron	Leenders
"	3	2	Yorkshire	Domes
"	7, 28, 29	2	Cuba	Morris
Common Redpoll	10, 11, 29	1	Shelby	Morien
"	10	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	14	9	Beaver Island SP	Mitchell
"	20	3	Wilson	D'Anna, DiTommaso
"	20	1	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr, Coleman
"	22	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Pine Siskin	5, 6	40, 65	Wilson	D'Anna
"	5-29	1-14	Shelby	Morien
"	7	15	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence et al
"	7, 28	6, 1	Whitesville	Reichman
"	12	55	Albion	Bemont
"	13	30	Newfane	D'Anna
<u>Eurasian Tree Sparrow</u>	1-28	1 PV	Niagara-on-the-Lake, ON.	Roy, Corcoran, Strickland et al

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 296

New species, subspecies, and named hybrids recorded this month: 1

Total for the year (to date): **297**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



(Clockwise from lower left) Tundra Swan photographed by Brendan Klick at Beaver Island on December 23<sup>rd</sup>, Eurasian Collared-Dove photographed by Ann and Charles Horton at Wilson on December 26<sup>th</sup>, and a second photograph of the Eurasian Collared-Dove.

## WHO AM I?

1. I breed in the land of the ice and snow, flying where the eskimos go
2. I'm a graceful and powerful flier and a pure-toned, descending crier
3. I like the tops of trees, but it's the smaller branches that please
4. I can be either light or dark, but my wrist bears a tell-tale mark

**STOP** here and see if anyone gets it...

**ONE MORE CLUE** if not:

5. To endure the extremes in weather, my bill is small and my legs are feathered

**ANSWER:** See page 10

**MORE...**

**What AGE am I?**

**Adult** (The dark eyes and solid, dark tail band tells us this, juvenile eyes are light and their tail bands are more dusky and less defined.)

**What SEX am I?**

**Female** (The single, bold, defined, dark tail band tells us female. Males usually have multiple tail bands. The more solid, dark belly indicates female, while males have a more mottled belly)

**Other interesting facts:**

- They have two morphs, light and dark. The dark morph is least common.
- They have a dark wrist, making their identification pretty easy.
- They are generally silent in winter but will call during territorial disputes or aggressive encounters.
- Hybrids are extremely rare but have been known to breed with Swainson's Hawks and Harlan's Red-tailed Hawks.
- They have two basic plumages: juvenile and adult. It takes about one year for their first molt, at which time they have attained adult plumage. It can take up to two years to fully develop the different plumages between the sexes.
- They nest in the Arctic - mostly on cliffs but sometimes on the ground.
- They are powerful and graceful fliers, not relying on thermals as other hawks, due to the cold climate. They migrate in conditions when most hawks wouldn't and fly similar to a Harrier: buoyant and languid, easily able to get lift and stay aloft.



March 10, 2015

---

## **A 'Chorus Call' for Marsh Monitoring in Western New York**

Bird Studies Canada is seeking Citizen Scientists to monitor wetland birds and frogs in the Great Lakes Basin. Participants have a great opportunity to spend time learning about their local wetlands while collecting data that helps us understand the health of wetland wildlife populations as well as the Great Lakes watershed.

The Marsh Monitoring Program (MMP) was launched in 1995, as a partnership between Bird Studies Canada and Environment Canada with funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. The primary goal is to monitor populations of marsh birds and amphibians across wetlands by engaging the skills of hundreds of volunteers.

Since 1995 over 1,500 Great Lakes Marsh Monitors contributed data from ~30,000 bird and ~40,000 frog point counts. This is a truly amazing accomplishment! Volunteer monitoring, such as the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program, plays an invaluable role in our understanding of natural systems and biological communities and species, and how they change over time.

MMP data are used to view marsh bird trends at three levels: basin-wide, regional (basin-specific), and local (site-specific). From this, questions about what factors may be influencing marsh birds can be addressed. To see the most recent results from the Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program check out our current report <http://www.birdscanada.org/download/GLMMPreport.pdf> and the 2014 Newsletter <http://www.birdscanada.org/library/mmpnews.pdf>.

We need volunteers to collect information on the calling frogs and toads, on marsh bird species and the areas they inhabit. Marsh Monitoring Program participants follow a standardized protocol, guided by written and audio training materials. Nocturnal surveys for calling frogs and toads are conducted three times during spring and early summer. Bird Surveys are conducted twice each spring using taped broadcasts to illicit response calls from several secretive species. Participants also describe the habitat features of their survey stations. An important aspect of the program has been its ability to determine habitat associations of marsh birds.

Learn more about the Great Lakes MMP at [www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/glmmmp](http://www.birdscanada.org/volunteer/glmmmp) or contact David Spiering the WNY Region Volunteer Great Lakes Marsh Monitoring Program Coordinator at Tifft Nature Preserve, 716-896-5200 ext. 202, [dspiering@sciencebuff.org](mailto:dspiering@sciencebuff.org). Or contact Kathy Jones, Bird Studies Canada's Volunteer Coordinator, 1-888-448-2473 ext. 124 or by email at [volunteer@birdscanada.org](mailto:volunteer@birdscanada.org). Routes are available in Buffalo and suburbs, Grand Island, Iroquois Fish & Wildlife Refuge, and other locations in Erie, Niagara and Cattaraugus Counties.



**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## Winter - Spring Calendar

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Bird Hotline** 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335

**Mar. 1 - May 15. Hamburg Hawkwatch** at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Road between Routes 5 & 20). Stop by between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting)! Contact Jim Landau (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)).

**Mar. 28: Sat. Lake Ontario Plains Field Trip for early migrants.** Meet at 8 AM at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport. Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com)

**Mar. 31: BOS GRANT APPLICATIONS** are due. Please visit [www.buffaloornithologicalsociety.org](http://www.buffaloornithologicalsociety.org) and search on grants.

**Apr. 8: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Students of Prof. Sara Morris will present "Updates on Flight Calling Behavior Studies at Canisius College." David Gordon will then give a brief report on results of the Buffalo Christmas Bird Count.

**Apr. 12: Sun. BOS Annual April Bird Count.** All BOS members should participate in the Seventy-ninth Annual April Bird Count. Contact Compiler: Joe Fell at 716-239-1508 or [joetf1973@aol.com](mailto:joetf1973@aol.com).

**Apr. 26: Braddock Bay.** Annual hawk weekend joint trip with the Rochester Birding Association. Meet 7:00 AM at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport. Solo drivers can meet the RBA group at 9:30 AM in the Braddock Bay Parking lot. (Take Route 18 to the Lake Ontario State Parkway. Exit at East Manitou Road/Braddock Bay.) Leaders: BOS: David Gordon (716-390-1429 or [dgordonphoto@gmail.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@gmail.com)) and RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or [rspahn@prodigy.net](mailto:rspahn@prodigy.net)) who will lead us to Monroe County Birding hotspots.

**May 17: Sun. BOS Annual May Bird Count.** The compiler is Robert DeLeon ([rdeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rdeleon@yahoo.com) or 716-626-0325). All BOS members should participate.

**May 13: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Joseph Mwangi, a trip leader for Natures Wonderland Safaris and BOS member Marcie Jacklin will discuss "Birding in Kenya."

**June 10: Wed. The Annual June Picnic** will be held at Tift Nature Preserve (Fuhrmann Blvd.). The picnic will be followed by a short field trip of Tift Nature Preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.



**Rough-legged Hawk (female, light morph) photographed by Sue Barth on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

ANN  
Q.L  
71  
96  
81  
0.2  
015

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

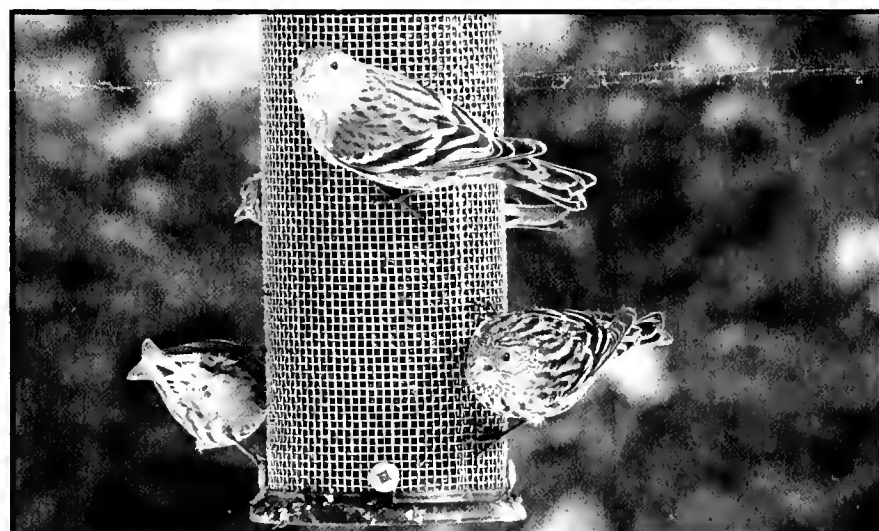
Volume 81, No. 2 February 2015



### THE MONTH: January *James Pawlicki*

The Buffalo National Weather Service described January 2015 as "bitterly cold with typical snow" that brought below average temperatures and consistent snowfall to the Western New York region. The month's mean temperature averaged out at 20.4 degrees Fahrenheit, 4.5 degrees below normal, while snowfall measured in at 25.0 inches, just 0.3 inches below average. Nearly half of the month's 31 days dropped into single digits, and measurable snow fell on 20 days. Three moderate lake effect snow events dropped between 1-2 feet of snow in areas just east of the lake before the eastern basin of Lake Erie froze over on the 9<sup>th</sup>.

With ice quickly building up on Lake Erie and the shores of Lake Ontario, most of the region's waterfowl were concentrated near the source of the Niagara River and along the upper river. Common Merganser, Common Goldeneye, and Greater Scaup numbers peaked mid-month with counts of 1,675, 1,850, and 9,100, respectively. Other high counts included 1,900 Canvasback at Buckhorn Island State Park on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 260 Tundra Swans at Beaver Island State Park on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Continuing over from December, both Ross's Goose and Trumpeter Swan were seen again at Beaver Island early in the month. The waterfowl highlight in Buffalo was an immature male Harlequin Duck seen by several observers from the West Side Rowing Club during a BOS field trip on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Portions of Dunkirk Harbor remained open, but like last winter, the amount of open water was limited given the combination of below freezing temperatures and the NRG power plant running at lower capacities, therefore discharging less warm water back into the harbor. Not surprisingly, this seems to have resulted in lower numbers and diversity of waterbirds as compared to recent winters, although four Northern Shovelers seen on the 6<sup>th</sup> and a Surf Scoter on the 24<sup>th</sup> were noteworthy for January. At the



(Top) Pine Siskin photographed by Kayo Roy at Fonthill Ontario on January 16<sup>th</sup>, (Middle) Red-headed Woodpecker photographed by Sue Barth at Hamburg on January 28<sup>th</sup>, and (Bottom) Bohemian Waxwing photographed by Jonathon Weber at Olcott on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

11	<b>The Month</b>	opposite end of
	<i>James Pawlicki</i>	the study area,
12	<b>2015 January Waterfowl Ct.</b>	the drake
	<i>James Landau</i>	Barrow's
14	<b>Noteworthy Records</b>	Goldeneye that
	<i>Joe Mitchell &amp; Statisticians</i>	returned in
18	<b>Calendar</b>	December for its
		9 <sup>th</sup> consecutive

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebehazy

**Society Officers:**

President: Thomas O'Donnell  
V. President: Michael Morgante  
Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
Secretary: Donna DeLeon  
Statisticians: Tim Baird  
Willie D'Anna  
Mike Morgante  
Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

**Council:**

2012-2014	Douglas Beattie Karen Lee Lewis David Suggs
2013-2015	Joseph Fell Michael Galas Lynne Landon
2014-2016	Ron Hacker Marsha Heckle Debbie Suggs

winter along the Lake Ontario shore at Point Breeze was also seen on two occasions this month by Stranger and Morse et al.

Both large and small gulls were very scarce by mid-month with many of the traditional sites in Niagara Falls and along the lower Niagara River hosting very little this winter. Iceland, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed Gulls were seen in small numbers along the lake and river shores, while two Thayer's Gulls were noted at Devil's Hole State Park on the 21<sup>st</sup>. The winter season's last Bonaparte's Gulls and 1-3 Little Gulls were seen during the first few days of the month before migrating to more hospitable environs. Notable

Wilson. The long-staying Eurasian Tree Sparrow was last seen coming to the feeders at the Corcoran residence on the 7<sup>th</sup>, while the Eurasian Collared-Dove initially seen and later photographed by the Hortons on 26 December lingered until the 6<sup>th</sup> of this month. Although Eurasian Collared-Doves have been recently showing signs of expansion in the northeastern US, this represents only the third record of the species in the BOS study area, all of which have occurred within the last four years. The two prior records were on 27 January and 2 February 2011 by the Ewalds in Lyndonville, and last summer on 29 August 2014 at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park by Potter.

Winter finches seen this month were limited to small numbers of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins, many of which were noted at feeders, although others were also observed feeding on more "natural" food sources such as the seed catkins of European alders. A Bohemian Waxwing seen from the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> in the town of Sardina by C&P Marcello was one of very few Erie County records and the first since 2007. Another Bohemian Waxwing found within a flock of Cedar Waxwings in Olcott was nicely photographed by Weber on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Rare in mid-winter, two Savannah Sparrows were seen and photographed foraging on roadsides mid-month. Mitchell found one with Song Sparrows in Clarence on the 10<sup>th</sup>, and Zebehazy came across another in the town of Alabama on the 15<sup>th</sup>. Other notable "half-hardies" included a cooperative Red-headed Woodpecker at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg throughout the month and an Eastern Towhee in Jamestown on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

I would like to thank Mike Morgante and Joe Mitchell for their comments and suggestions.

Literature Cited:

Buffalo National Weather Service accessed from:  
<http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/>

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., et al, B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database: 1964-2012.

eBird. 2014. eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance [web application]. Version 3. eBird, Ithaca, New York. Available: <http://www.ebird.org>.



Juvenile Red-tailed Hawk photographed by Sue Barth at Emery Park, South Wales on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

legged Kittiwake seen at Buffalo Harbor during strong southwest winds on the 1<sup>st</sup>.

Snowy Owls continued to be seen throughout the study area with sightings of 1-2 from 11 locations including on the Niagara Peninsula in Ontario. High counts of 3-5 were noted at the Buffalo and Dunkirk Airports and on the frozen Lewiston Reservoir. Small numbers of Short-eared Owls were noted at traditional locations just north of Iroquois NWR in the town of Shelby, at the Niagara Falls Airport, and in St. Catharines (Ont). Another individual was seen at the Dunkirk Airport on the 11<sup>th</sup>.

On the last day of the month, two Fish Crows were seen and heard calling in amongst larger flocks of American Crows at a pre-roost staging area near the Niagara River in Fort Erie (Ont) by Salisbury and Fazio. Although the species still remains extremely rare across the entire BOS study area, reports of the species at this location have become a regular occurrence in January and February, starting with the first confirmed sightings in January 2012.

Significant rarities continuing from December and mentioned in previous issues of *The Prothonotary* were the Eurasian Tree Sparrow in Niagara-on-the-Lake (Ont) and Eurasian Collared-Dove in the town of

# 2015 January Waterfowl Count Summary

*James Landau*

**Overview.** The New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) conducts an annual waterfowl count each January to assist the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYDEC) in monitoring long-term waterfowl population changes, bird conservation planning, and environmental reviews. The Buffalo Ornithological Society has been participating in this effort since 1955, conducting counts in the BOS study area. This year's count period was January 17 – 25, with a preferred target date of Sunday, January 18. The great majority of sections were covered on the 18<sup>th</sup>. This significantly reduced the possibility of under- or double-counting large numbers of ducks that spend time on the Niagara River each winter. Results of the state waterfowl count will be published in "The Kingbird" and posted on the NYSOA website at: <http://www.nybirds.org/ProjWaterfowl.htm>

**Species Compilation.** The table below lists the species observed on the 2015 count and their accumulated totals. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section letters are noted.

Species	Total	Notes	Species	Total	Notes
Gr. Wh-fr. Goose	2	M	Lesser Scaup	245	
Canada Goose	4,325		scaup species	378	
Mute Swan	10	F1,I,J	Surf Scoter	3	B,F2,I
Trumpeter Swan	1	D	Wh.-winged Scoter	97	
Tundra Swan	557		Long-tailed Duck	1,307	
Wood Duck	1	K	Bufflehead	3,454	
Gadwall	30		C. Goldeneye	3,223	
Am. Black Duck	210		Hooded Merganser	97	
Mallard	3,975		C. Merganser	2,703	
Mallard x Am. Black Duck	8	K,L,R	Red-br. Merganser	1,897	
Northern Pintail	3	E2,Q	Ruddy Duck	5	F1,I
Green-winged Teal	1	M	Pied-billed Grebe	4	
Canvasback	12,712		Horned Grebe	2	A
Redhead	1,151		D.-cr. Cormorant	128	E2,I
Ring-necked Duck	44	E2,G,I	American Coot	87	I
Greater Scaup	7,729		Other/Unidentified	28	
			<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE</b>	<b>44,417</b>	

**Notes.** Although the weather was not as appalling as last year, the target day of Sunday, January 18 started out in the morning with a little of what the TV weather folks refer to as a "wintry mix." Fortunately that ended before 11AM and the great majority of parties were able to get out on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

Two weeks or so prior to the start of the count many of the expected wintering waterfowl were not yet in evidence in significant numbers on the Niagara River. They arrived the week before the count period however, giving most teams plenty to count.

The majority of waterfowl species seen in the BOS Study Area on this count appear to show a typical fluctuation in numbers recorded, with some displaying rather dramatic swings from one year to the next. This year's count produced no "all-time" high or low counts

for any of the expected winter species, yet there are always a few sightings that merit special mention. Greater White-fronted Goose (2) were reported in Section M, the first time this species has ever been logged on this count. A single Trumpeter Swan (wing-tagged and leg-banded) was noted on the Niagara River in Section D, only the third ever seen on this count. The tag does not appear to match the one on an individual seen at Beaver Island SP in December. Never an abundant species on this count, American Wigeon was not recorded this year for the first time since 1981. A Ross's Goose that spent December at Beaver Island State Park was reportedly shot on or near January 9, the closing day of waterfowl season.

**Participation in New York's Annual Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.** The January Waterfowl Count roughly coincides with the National Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey. This national survey is being coordinated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers out of their San Francisco office, in partnership with the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey. The NYDEC conducts their own effort on behalf of this survey and encourages us to report any eagles observed during the waterfowl count. This year 10 sections reported an impressive 42 Bald Eagles, both full adults and immature birds of varying ages and plumages. The NYDEC's winter eagle research is viewable on the Internet at <http://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/9381.html>

**Acknowledgements.** The compiler thanks the section leaders (in boldface) and all participants for their efforts on behalf of this year's January Waterfowl Count and Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.

- A. Lake Ontario (Point Breeze to Olcott): **Tom O'Donnell**, Sue O'Donnell
- B. Lake Ontario (Olcott to Fort Niagara): **Peter Yoerg**, Barbara Henderson
- C. Fort Niagara to Niagara Falls, NY side: **Robert DeLeon**, Donna DeLeon, Karen Lewis, Lynne Landon
- D. NOTL to Niagara Falls, Canadian side: **Bill Broderick**, Victoria Rothman, Kathy DiVito
- E1. Buffalo Harbor to Sheridan Dr., NY side: **John Thill**, Kathleen Thill
- E2. Sheridan Dr. to Goat Island: **Mike Galas**, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Chris Hollister, Scott Meier, Keegan O'Neill, Gerry Rising, Stu Rubin
- F1. Peace Bridge to Horseshoe Falls: **Liz Wells**, Jim Rozanski
- F2. Jaeger Rocks to Peace Bridge, Canadian side: **Bill Watson**, David Gordon
- G. Grand Island: **Mike Zebehazy**, Doug Happ
- H. Lake Erie (Buffalo Harbor to Silver Creek): **David Suggs**, Debra Suggs
- I. Lake Erie (Silver Creek to PA line): **Gale VerHague**, Dana VerHague, Keith Stock, Shawn Salim
- J. Jamestown & Chautauqua Lake: **Bill Seleen**, Thomas Simmons, Paul Doran
- K. Allegheny River, Cattaraugus Co. (from Olean to Allegheny Reservoir at PA line.): **Tim Baird**, Pat Coate, Bert Schweigert
- L. Allegany County: **Russell Allen**, Roy Morris
- M. Batavia, NY: **Doug Beattie**, Elaine Dart
- N & O. Iroquois NWR, Oak Orchard & Tonawanda WMAs: **Ed Ratajczak**, Sally Uzunov
- P. Williamsville, Cheektowaga, Lancaster, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Mike Morgante, Ed Ratajczak, Sally Uzunov
- Q. Delaware Park, Forest Lawn Cemetery: **Tom Connare**
- R. South Park, Cazenovia Park & Creek: **Jim Landau**, Joe Sullivan

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	4	1500	Warsaw	Wojewodzki
"	24	13	Cuba	Kuhn
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	2-5	1 PV	Beaver Island SP	Humann et al
Mute Swan	17; 18	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Mashburn; VerHague
"	19; 28	2	Beaver Island SP	Lenz; Humann
Trumpeter Swan	1	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
Tundra Swan	3	200	Goat Island	Mark
"	14; 17	200; 260	Beaver Island SP	Sharon; Yerkovich
Gadwall	6	45	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	15; 20	14; 14	Tonawanda	Watson; Pawlicki
"	20; 22	50; 20	Goat Island	Sharon; Brenner, DaRugna
"	22; 26	94; 40	Niagara Falls	Watson
American Wigeon	6	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	15	2	Tonawanda	Watson
American Black Duck	5; 6	23; 17	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague; Pawlicki
"	18	22	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson
"	20	15	Riverside Park	Pawlicki
Northern Shoveler	6	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
Northern Pintail	15	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Fell
"	21	2	Goat Island	Pawlicki
"	25	1	Scajaquada Creek	Fell
Green-winged Teal	5; 19	1; 1	Batavia WWTP	Mitchell; Beattie, Dart
Canvasback	6	1900	Buckhorn Island SP	Mitchell
"	17	1000	Beaver Island SP	Yerkovich
Redhead	6	255	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Watson
"	6; 17	100	Buffalo Harbor	Kauffman; Brenner et al
"	18; 19	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Beattie, Dart
"	24	229	Tonawanda	Watson
Ring-necked Duck	4	6	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	6	45	Buckhorn Island SP	Mitchell
"	18	4	Barcelona Harbor	VerHague
Greater Scaup	18	3570	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson
"	19; 25	9100, 8000	Buffalo	Watson; Pawlicki (BOS)
"	20	7200	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	20	1850	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki
Lesser Scaup	2; 13	13; 30	Buffalo Harbor	Hauser; Brenner et al
"	18	33	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson
"	20	14	Tonawanda	Pawlicki
Harlequin Duck	25	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	D'Anna, Pawlicki et al (BOS)
Surf Scoter	24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Landau, Wojewodzki
"	25	1	Wilson	Yoerg
White-winged Scoter	12-25	10-36	Point Breeze	Sucy et al
Black Scoter	19	1	Point Breeze	Morse et al
Long-tailed Duck	13	200	Lewiston	Brenner, Weber, Lamoreaux
"	19; 20	200; 256	Point Breeze	Morse et al; Martin
Bufflehead	18	951	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson
"	19	1210	Buffalo	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	975	Riverside Park	Pawlicki
"	25	400	Niagara River - Buffalo	Mitchell
Common Goldeneye	18	1196	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson; Gordon
"	19	1850	Buffalo	Watson
"	21, 29	750, 875	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	11; 19	1	Point Breeze	Stanger; Morse et al
Hooded Merganser	2; 6	48; 28	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague; Pawlicki, Watson
"	31	20	Grand Island	Pirson
Common Merganser	15	1675	Tonawanda	Watson
"	17	1100	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
Red-breasted Merganser	1	500	Squaw Island	Rose-Burney
Ruddy Duck	1-24	1-5	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague et al
"	4; 6	2; 3	Buckhorn Island SP	Sharon; Mitchell
Red-throated Loon	1	3	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Roy
"	19	1	Point Breeze	Morse, Hollister
Common Loon	1	1	Fort Niagara SP	Kauffman, Redhawk
"	3	1	Evangola SP	Mitchell
Pied-billed Grebe	17, 23	1	Wellsville	Reichman
"	25	1	Hinsdale	Reed
Horned Grebe	3	11	Evangola SP	Mitchell
Double-crest. Cormorant	6; 18	68; 125	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; VerHague
"	6	31	Tonawanda	Mitchell
Great Blue Heron	4; 25	34; 22	Strawberry Island	Watson; Pawlicki et al (BOS)
Black-cr. Night-Heron	25	1	Strawberry Island	Pawlicki et al (BOS)
Black Vulture	3; 11	3; 3	Lewiston	Mark; Coombs
Turkey Vulture	2	1	Amherst	Perry
"	3; 11; 19	7; 5; 3	Lewiston	Mark; Coombs, Lenz
Bald Eagle	6	3	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	13; 21	5; 7	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz; VerHague
"	18	3	Tonawanda	Humann
Red-shouldered Hawk	2, 31	1	Forestville	VerHague
"	18	1	Orchard Park	Barth
"	21	1	Ashford	J. Rosenburg
"	28	1	Angola	K Landau
Rough-legged Hawk	4	1	Villanova	VerHague
"	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Brenner
"	15	1	Kiantone	Henshaw
"	18	1	Tonawanda	Thomas
"	18	1	Yates	T&S O'Donnell
"	25	3	Dayton	VerHague
"	25	1	Pembroke	Morien
American Coot	2; 6	250; 167	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague; Watson
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	1 ad	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Bonaparte's Gull	1	250	Squaw Island	Pawlicki
Little Gull	1; 1, 4	3; 1, 2	Squaw Island	Rose-Burney; Pawlicki
"	1	3	Bird Island Pier	Yoerg
"	1	1	Dunkirk Harbor	J&K Landau
<u>Thayer's Gull</u>	21	2	Devil's Hole SP	Pawlicki
Iceland Gull	3; 4	2; 3	Goat Island	Mark; Rose-Burney
"	13	3	Devil's Hole SP	Brenner, Weber, Lamoreaux
"	25	2	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
Lesser Black-backed Gull	3; 4, 18	2; 5, 3	Goat Island	Mark; Rose-Burney
"	19	2	Beaver Island SP	Lenz
Glaucous Gull	3; 4; 25	1	Goat Island	Mark; Rose-Burney; D'Anna
"	18; 31	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague; Goetz
"	18	1	Yates	T&S O'Donnell
"	18	3	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	19	1	Olcott	Mitchell
"	20; 25	1	Riverside Park	Pawlicki et al
"	25	3	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
Great Black-backed Gull	5; 21	104; 120	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague; Goetz
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	1-6	1 PV	Wilson(f)	Horton
Snowy Owl	7	4	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
"	11	3	Buffalo Airport	Utech

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	21	5	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
"	1-31	1-2	11 Locations	Multiple Observers
Short-eared Owl	2-14	1-5	Shelby	Morien; Barth; Brenner et al
"	11	1	Dunkirk Airport	Mance-Coniglio
"	14	1	Niagara Falls Airport	Walters
"	20	6	St. Catharines, Ont.	Fell
Red-headed Woodpecker	1-31	1	Hamburg	Zebehazy et al
"	3	1	Orchard Park	Hoover
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5	1	Amherst	Salembier
"	10, 28	1	Forestville	VerHague
"	15	1	Fort Niagara SP	Gralak
"	22	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
Merlin	3	1	Amherst	Mark
"	4	1	Dunkirk Airport	Stineman
"	25	1	Squaw Island	Mitchell
"	27	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Peregrine Falcon	1, 20; 3; 4	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki; Fell; Thomas et al
"	3	1	Goat Island	Mark
"	18	1	Tonawanda	Humann
"	18	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Watson, Gordon
"	17; 20, 28	1	Grand Island	Hess; Humann
"	21	1	Bemus Point	Berry
"	30	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
Northern Shrike	2; 6	1	Grand Island	Fell; Mitchell
"	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Brenner
"	19	1	Sheridan	VerHague
"	20	1	Carlton	Beattie, Rising, Reehling
"	22	1	Porter	Sharon
"	25	1	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
<u>Fish Crow</u>	31	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Fazio, Salisbury
Common Raven	10; 18	2; 1	Tonawanda	Fell; Galas
"	17	8	Bethany	Beattie
"	20	1	North Collins	Zebehazy
Horned Lark	15	95	Bethany	Beattie
Winter Wren	31	2	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
Eastern Bluebird	1	15	North Collins	J&K Landau
Hermit Thrush	2	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	8	1	Carlton	Bemont
American Robin	19	150	Olcott	Mitchell
Bohemian Waxwing	10-11	1	Sardinia	C&P Marcello
"	18	1	Olcott	Weber
Cedar Waxwing	19	30	Caneadea	Duncan
"	29	40	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
Lapland Longspur	17; 19	1	Alabama	Morien; Mitchell
Snow Bunting	10	50	Sheridan	VerHague
"	11, 30	50, 60	Independence	Reichman
"	17	140	Alabama	Beattie
"	24	184	Dunkirk Harbor	Landau, Wojewodzki
Eastern Towhee	23	1	Jamestown	DeArbol
Savannah Sparrow	<u>10</u>	1	Clarence	Mitchell
"	<u>15</u>	1	Alabama	Zebehazy
Swamp Sparrow	6	3	Beaver Island SP	Mitchell
White-crowned Sparrow	2, 11, 31	6, 4, 15	Bethany	Beattie
"	17	6	Alabama	Morien
"	20	12	Carlton	Beattie, Rising, Reehling
"	26	3	Portland	Hardenburg
<u>Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)</u>	1-31	1 PV	Colden	J&K Landau
Red-winged Blackbird	7; 12, 26	6; 7, 11	Tonawanda	M&S Galas; Watson
Brown-headed Cowbird	11	110	Independence	Reichman
Purple Finch	17	2	Fort Niagara SP	J&K Landau, Wojewodzki
"	25	12	Jamestown	Leenders
Common Redpoll	16	2	Alabama	Beattie
"	22	3	Forestville	VerHague
"	25	1	Independence	Reichman

<u>Species</u>	<u>January</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	25; 28, 29	1; 9, 4	Wilson	Frauen; Potter, D'Anna
"	26, 27	1	Portland	Hardenburg
"	30	1	Wellsville	Russell
"	31	1	Shelby	Morien
Pine Siskin	6	10	Buckhorn Island SP	Mitchell
"	8	85	Carlton	Bemont
"	9	1	Clarence	Lewis
"	16	2	Shelby	Morien
"	16	27	Fonthill, Ont.	Roy
"	18, 27, 30	1, 5, 14	Wellsville	Russell
"	19	24	Colden	J&K Landau
"	30	1	Independence	Reichman
<u>Eurasian Tree Sparrow</u>	7	1 PV	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Corcoran

Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the year:

120

Total for the year 2015:

120

Other species seen in January:

Canada Goose, Mallard, Ring-necked Pheasant, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, American Kestrel, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, American Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco "Slate-colored", Northern Cardinal, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow. Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year:

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



(Top) Red-shouldered Hawk photographed by Sue Barth at West Falls on January 27<sup>th</sup>, (Upper Right) Savannah Sparrow photographed by Mike Zebehazy at Alabama on January 15<sup>th</sup>, and (Bottom Right) Savannah Sparrow photographed by Joe Mitchell at Clarence on January 10<sup>th</sup>.





**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **Spring - Summer Calendar**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Bird Hotline** 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335

**Apr. 8: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Students of Prof. Sara Morris will present "Updates on Flight Calling Behavior Studies at Canisius College." David Gordon will then give a brief report on results of the Buffalo Christmas Bird Count.

**Apr. 12: Sun. BOS Annual April Bird Count.** All BOS members should participate in the Seventy-ninth Annual April Bird Count. Contact Compiler: Joe Fell at 716-239-1508 or [joetf1973@aol.com](mailto:joetf1973@aol.com).

**Apr. 26: Braddock Bay.** Annual hawk weekend joint trip with the Rochester Birding Association. Meet 7:00 AM at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport. Solo drivers can meet the RBA group at 9:30 AM in the Braddock Bay Parking lot. (Take Route 18 to the Lake Ontario State Parkway. Exit at East Manitou Road/ Braddock Bay.) Leaders: BOS: David Gordon (716-390-1429 or [dgordonphoto@gmail.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@gmail.com)) and RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or [rspahn@prodigy.net](mailto:rspahn@prodigy.net)) who will lead us to Monroe County Birding hotspots.

**May 10: Sun. Tifft Nature Preserve Field Trip for early warblers and migrants.** Leader: Joe Mitchell; 716-604-7701 or [josephcmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:josephcmitchell@gmail.com). Meet at 7:30 AM in the Tifft N.P. parking lot off of Fuhrmann Blvd. This is a half-day trip.

**May 13: Wed. BOS Meeting at 7:00 PM in the Cummings Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Joseph Mwangi, a trip leader for Natures Wonderland Safaris and BOS member Marcie Jacklin will discuss "Birding in Kenya."

**May 16-17: The New York State Ornithological Association (NYSOA) is offering a field trip to the Intervale Lowlands Preserve in Lake Placid in the Adirondacks.** The weekend will start with an optional bird walk at Bloomingdale Bog on 16 May, and that afternoon Larry Master will give a presentation on the history and natural history of the Intervale Lowland Preserve. The main event will be a bird walk at the preserve on 17 May, where we hope to see Black-backed Woodpecker, Lincoln's Sparrow, and many of the 17 species of warbler that breed here. Visit the NYSOA web site ([www.nybirds.org](http://www.nybirds.org)) for more information including instructions about how to register for the trip.

**May 17: Sun. BOS Annual May Bird Count.** The compiler is Robert DeLeon ([rdeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rdeleon@yahoo.com) or 716-626-0325). All BOS members should participate.

**June 10: Wed. The Annual June Picnic** will be held at Tifft Nature Preserve (Fuhrmann Blvd.). The picnic will be followed by a short field trip of Tifft Nature Preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.



(Top) Tundra Swan photographed by Kayo Roy at Fort Erie, Ontario on January 2<sup>nd</sup> and (Bottom) Pileated Woodpecker photographed by Sue Barth at Emery Park, South Wales on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 3 March 2015

### THE MONTH: February

*Joseph Mitchell*

Cold is a poor description of this February's weather. The month's average temperature of 10.9 degrees Fahrenheit made for not only the coldest February on record but also the coldest calendar month in the history of Buffalo weather record keeping. Overall, the month finished fifteen degrees below normal, set three daily record lows, and set two record low maximums. At no point during the entire month did the temperature rise above the freezing mark, only the second February on record to accomplish this. A grand total of ten days fell below zero this month, one shy of the record of eleven that was recorded in February 1934, the same month whose average temperature of 11.6 degrees Fahrenheit previously held the record for coldest month.

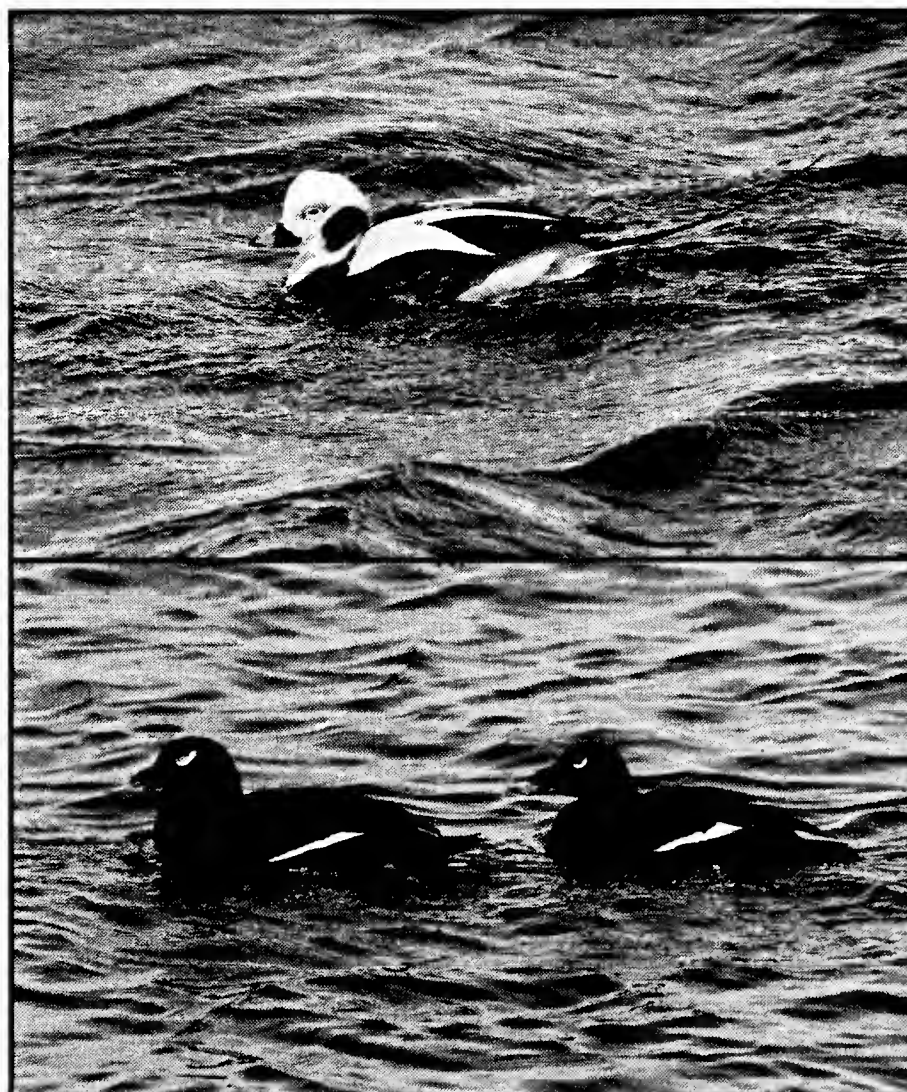
Along with the frigid temperatures, Western New York residents had to contend with the 46.2 inches of snow that fell during the month. Marking the third snowiest February on record, this total is 29 inches above normal, resulted from 21 days of measurable snowfall, and created the deepest snowpack, 26 inches on the 15<sup>th</sup>, in thirteen years.

Despite the cold temperatures, several notable species were observed during the month. A flock of 25 Sandhill Cranes was observed in Haldimand, Ont. by Bullock and Moffat on the 18<sup>th</sup>. This represents the highest count for Sandhill Crane in the history of the BOS Study Area and only the second February record of the species. Bohemian Waxwings were sighted in several locations this month (Yates and Fort Niagara SP) and culminated with a small flock of six being found by Holmes alongside Cedar Waxwings at Majors Park in East Aurora on the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Uncommon enough in winter, Bohemian Waxwings are very rare anywhere south of the Lake Ontario Plain. While conducting a

- |    |   |                   |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 19 | <b>The Month</b>                        | BOS field trip to |
|    | <i>Joseph Mitchell</i>                  | Dunkirk Harbor,   |
| 20 | <b>Dunkirk Harbor Field Trip</b>        | trip leader       |
|    | <i>Bill Watson</i>                      | VerHague and      |
| 21 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>               | trip participants |
|    | <i>Joe Mitchell &amp; Statisticians</i> | tallied 46 Bald   |
| 24 | <b>NWR Database Update</b>              | Eagles at various |
|    | <i>David F. Suggs</i>                   | points around     |
| 24 | <b>BOS Survey and Calendar</b>          | the harbor.       |



Two Fish Crows were again seen and heard in Fort Erie, Ont. following a report in January; seen this month by Miller on the 1<sup>st</sup> and Prior on the 10<sup>th</sup>. Unusual in winter, but even more so given this month's bitterly cold temperatures and snow, is a Gray Catbird seen in the Allegany County town of Wellsville by Allen on the 1<sup>st</sup>. A Pine Warbler spent the month of February at a Port Weller, Ont. feeder (Dekker) while Haines reported a Chipping Sparrow for five days mid-month in Niagara Falls, Ont. The "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco first reported by the Landaus at their Colden area feeders in November 2014 has been seen every month since and continued throughout February. A lone female White-winged Crossbill made a one day appearance in Ripley at the home of Raszkowski.



(Top) Long-tailed Duck and (Bottom) White-winged Scoters photographed by Gale VerHague at Dunkirk Harbor on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebehazy

#### Society Officers:

President: Michael Morgante  
V. President: David Suggs  
Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
Secretary: Debbie Suggs  
Statisticians: Tim Baird  
Willie D'Anna  
Mike Morgante  
Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

#### Council:

2013-2015	Joseph Fell Michael Galas Lynne Landon
2014-2016	Alec Humann Donna DeLeon Debbie Suggs
2015-2017	Thomas O'Donnell Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney

Other highlights from the region include a single Snow Goose at Dunkirk Harbor on the 16<sup>th</sup> (Goetz), 14 Mute Swans at Dunkirk Harbor on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (Goetz), 1900 Canvasback in Tonawanda on the 1<sup>st</sup> (Watson), two Harlequin Ducks on the Niagara River throughout the month (Pawlicki et al), 1700 Common Goldeneye in Buffalo on the 5<sup>th</sup> (Watson), two Common Loons on the Niagara River on the 22<sup>nd</sup> (Humann), a Long-eared Owl in Arcade on the 18<sup>th</sup> (Fehringer), Short-eared Owls at five locations, and wintering White-crowned Sparrows at multiple locations, highlighted by 18 in Sheridan on the 26<sup>th</sup> (VerHague).

Winter "field birds" were reported in large numbers this month with flocks of over 150 Horned Larks being observed in Wilson, Somerset, Bethany, and Yates. Lapland Longspurs were seen in several locations in numbers greater than the usual ones and twos. D'Anna and Potter reported 45 longspurs in Yates on the 11<sup>th</sup>. Similarly, Snow Bunting flocks totaling several hundred individuals were reported in Wilson (675), Alexander (275), and Bethany (330).

Winter finches made a stronger push through the BOS Study Area this month with multiple Purple Finches reported at several locations. Common Redpoll reports doubled this month when compared to January, as did Pine Siskin reports, with the latter being observed in multiple double-digit flocks.

I would like to thank Jim Pawlicki for his comments and suggestions.

#### Literature cited:

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database. 1964-2013

Buffalo National Weather Service: <http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/>

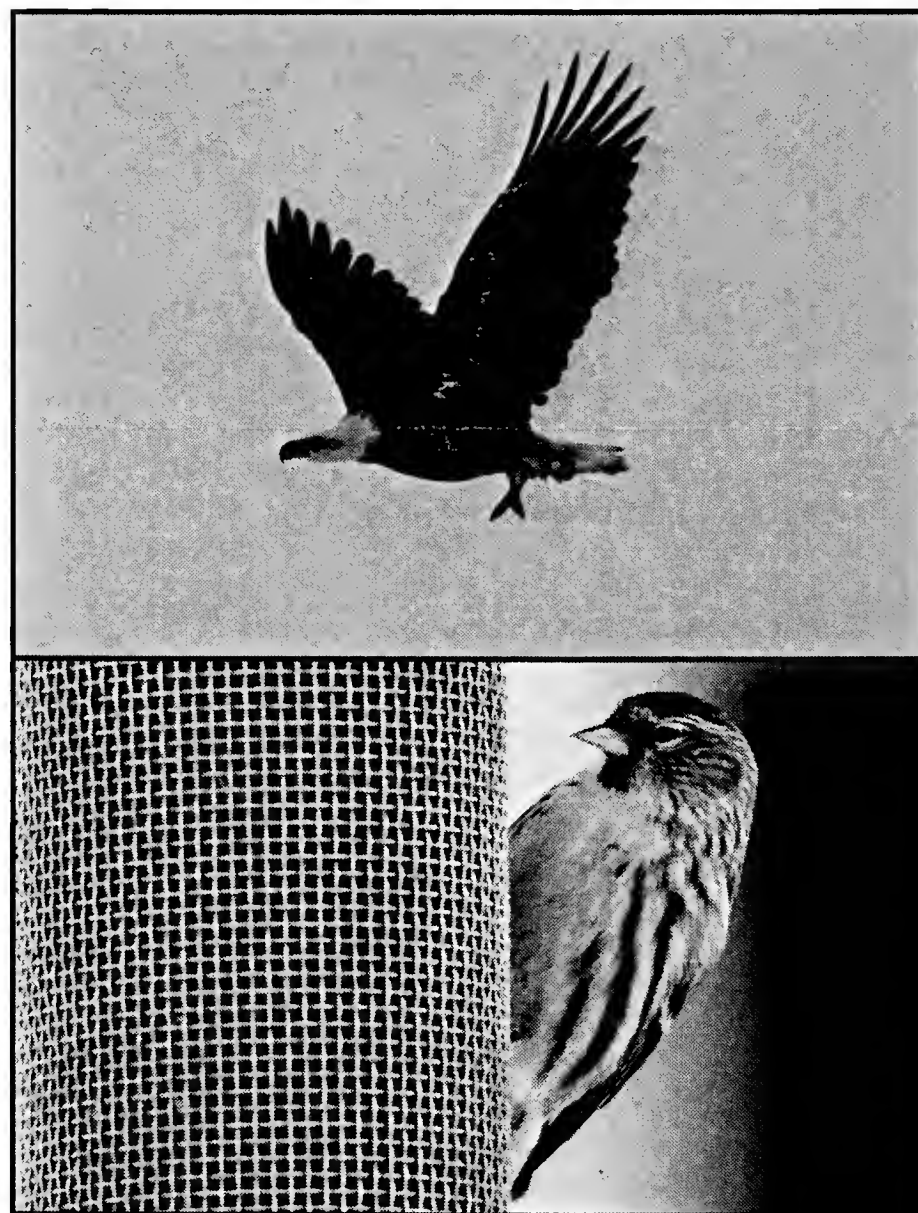
(Right, Top) Bald Eagle photographed by Gale VerHague at Dunkirk Harbor on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and (Bottom, Right) Common Redpoll photographed by Sue Barth at Hemlock Ridge Road, Medina in Orleans County on February 4<sup>th</sup>.

## Dunkirk Harbor Field Trip

*Bill Watson*

February 22 was almost warm compared to recent weather this late February. The Field Trip leader Gale VerHague met with seven Buffalo Ornithological Society members on the main pier in Dunkirk Harbor. At 9:00 AM the sky was overcast with steam coming off the water and hampering visibility, but by 10:30 the visibility improved and the sun peaked out. The earliest of the seven field trip participants were treated to a RED-THROATED LOON. Unfortunately this bird could not be found later in the day. The usual birds were there with 152 Canvasback, 78 Greater Scaup, 57 Common Mergansers, 27 Red-breasted Mergansers, 31 Redhead, 38 Common Goldeneye, and only 6 Bufflehead.

Never found in good numbers at Dunkirk in February were five Long-tailed Ducks, two adult male SURF SCOTERS, six White-winged Scoters, a Black Scoter, a RUDDY DUCK, and six Gadwalls. There were also twelve Hooded Mergansers, 37 American Coots, 14 MUTE SWANS (three near the pier and eleven near the Conservation Club) and 27 beautiful DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANTS. Three Great Blue Herons were on the west end of the close break wall and a PEREGRINE FALCON was on one of the highest window sills of the power plant. None of the previously observed white winged gulls could be found, but there was an impressive 44 Great Black Back Gulls. We had a total of 29 (mostly waterfowl) species for the day. Some members were delighted to add some life scoters and others to their lists. Thank you to Gale VerHague for great birds and a great time.



## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	16	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
Mute Swan	8	2	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann, Fell
"	20; 22	14; 14	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz; VerHague et al (BOS)
Tundra Swan	4	23	Tonawanda	Humann
"	7	26; 30	Buckhorn Island SP	Coleman; Persaud
"	8	20	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
"	22	23	Squaw Island	Pawlicki
"	22	76	Grand Island	Hess
Gadwall	5	8	Tonawanda	Watson
"	11; 22	16; 6	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; VerHague et al (BOS)
American Wigeon	5	1	Tonawanda	Watson
"	18	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
American Black Duck	8; 11	20; 9	Dunkirk Harbor	Salim; Watson
"	11	17	Fredonia	Watson
"	18-28	8	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
Northern Pintail	18	1	Buffalo	Ploger
Canvasback	1, 10	1900, 1028	Tonawanda	Watson
"	7	475	Buckhorn Island SP	Coleman
"	11; 28	230; 278	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Barry
"	21	250	Grand Island	Thomas
"	28	9	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
"	28	5	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Redhead	5	95	Buffalo	Watson
"	11; 28	67; 78	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Barry
"	28	120	Goat Island	Walters
"	28	7	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
"	28	3	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Ring-necked Duck	8	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
"	17, 18; 19	1	Tonawanda	Humann; Fell
"	22	18	Grand Island	Hess
Greater Scaup	5, 21	510, 1200	Buffalo	Watson
"	22	800	Squaw Island	Pawlicki
"	26	575	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
Lesser Scaup	22	150	Squaw Island	Pawlicki
Harlequin Duck	4; 8	1; 2	Niagara River - Buffalo	Watson, Pawlicki; Humann
"	17	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
"	7; 22	2; 1	Squaw Island	Yoerg; Pawlicki
Surf Scoter	4; 8	2; 1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki; Humann, Fell
"	7	1	Point Breeze	Guthrie
"	3; 22	1; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz; VerHague et al (BOS)
White-winged Scoter	5; 8	11; 11	Niagara River - Buffalo	Watson; Humann
"	22; 28	48; 50	Fort Niagara SP	Watkins; Walters
"	25	40	Lewiston	Seyler
"	28	30; 6	Dunkirk Harbor	Barry; Mosher
Black Scoter	8	2	Buffalo Harbor	Yoerg
"	22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague et al (BOS)
Long-tailed Duck	5, 21	95, 80	Buffalo	Watson

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	7	175	Point Breeze	Guthrie
"	21; 28	150; 100	Lewiston	Kerr; Walters
"	22	1	Independence	Reichman
"	26	242	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
Bufflehead	4; 28	875; 570	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki; Humann
Common Goldeneye	5, 21	1700, 900	Buffalo	Watson
"	7, 26	1100, 900	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
Hooded Merganser	1	30	North Tonawanda	Watson
"	11	13	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	22	14	Grand Island	Hess
Common Merganser	5	900	Buffalo	Watson
"	5	1400	Tonawanda	Watson
"	28	45	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
Red-breasted Merganser	5	550	Buffalo	Watson
"	7	150	Point Breeze	Guthrie
Ruddy Duck	11; 27; 28	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Goetz; Mosher
Red-throated Loon	22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague et al (BOS)
"	22	2	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	22	1	Fort Niagara SP	Watkins
Common Loon	22	2	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
Horned Grebe	7	1	Point Breeze	Guthrie
"	21	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	22	1	Fort Niagara SP	Watkins
Double-crest. Cormorant	11	33	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
"	28	2	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
Black Vulture	11; 28	2; 1	Lewiston	Barton; D'Anna, Potter
Turkey Vulture	14	1	North Tonawanda	Lipps
"	15	4	Machias	Marsh
"	24	3	Lewiston	Rising, Meier, Rubin
Bald Eagle	22	46	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson, VerHague et al (BOS)
"	23	4	Tonawanda	Humann
"	25	5	Lewiston	Seyler
"	28	4	Fort Niagara SP	VerHague
"	1-28	1-2	Reports from 8 locations	Multiple Observers
Red-shouldered Hawk	8	2	Marilla	Mitchell
"	11	1	Forestville	VerHague
"	14-23	1	Portland	Hardenburg
Rough-legged Hawk	6, 7	1	Tonawanda	Humann
"	11	1	Jamestown Airport	Leenders
"	13	1	Sanborn	Schul
American Coot	11	111	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson
* Sandhill Crane	<u>18; 19</u>	25; 22	Haldimand, Ont.	Bullock, Moffat; Corcoran
Bonaparte's Gull	22	1	Fort Niagara SP	Watkins
Iceland Gull	21; 22; 28	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague; Goetz; Barry
"	21; 22	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann; Pawlicki
"	21	4	Adam Beck Hydro	Kerr
"	24	1	Lewiston	Rising, Meier, Rubin
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
Glaucous Gull	8; 22	2; 1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann, Fell; Humann
"	11; 28	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Watson; Barry
"	21	2	Goat Island	Kerr
"	22	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	24	2	Lewiston	Rising, Meier, Rubin
Great Black-backed Gull	3; 22	125; 44	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague; Watson
Snowy Owl	22	2	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	1-28	1	Reports from 6 locations	Multiple Observers
* Barred Owl	12	1	Kiantone	Tome
"	28	4	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr
* Long-eared Owl	18	1	Arcade	Fehringer
Short-eared Owl	7; 16	1	Alabama	Barth; Lewis
"	20	1	Hanover	VerHague
"	23	1	Royalton	Ash
"	23	1	Porter	Drake
"	25	5	Yates	Palermo

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Red-headed Woodpecker	1-28	1	Lakeside Cemetery	Zebehazy, Russell
"	10-23	1	Campden, Ont.	Pryor, Riley
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8	1	Sinking Ponds WS	Holmes
"	13	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	13	1	Alexander	Fox
"	14, 15	1	Forestville	VerHague
Merlin	8	1	Fort Niagara SP	S&T O'Donnell
"	11; 14; 15	1	Wilson	Barth; Wood; Thomas
"	26	1	Oakfield	Morien
Peregrine Falcon	4; 17; 20	1; 2	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki; Humann
"	4, 24	1	Tonawanda	Humann
"	18; 28	1	Squaw Island	Ploger; Coleman
"	15; 22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz; VerHague et al (BOS)
"	28	1	Grand Island	Humann
Northern Shrike	7	1	Yates	Pawlicki
"	25; 27	1	Shelby	Morien; Barth
"	28	1	Holland	Wojewodzki
<u>Fish Crow</u>	1; 10	2; 2	Fort Erie, Ont.	Miller; Prior
Common Raven	6; 21	2; 1	Tonawanda	Humann; Watson, Pawlicki
"	9	2	Buffalo	Gordon
"	10	1	Queenston, Ont.	Pryor
"	13	1	Shelby	Mrozek
Horned Lark	10	150	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	11	150	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	12, 27	150, 140	Bethany	Beattie
"	15; 17	100; 250	Yates	Thomas; Beattie
* Gray Catbird	1	1	Wellsville	Allen
Bohemian Waxwing	7	4	Yates	Pawlicki
"	8; 10	1	Fort Niagara SP	Humann et al; D'Anna, Potter
"	22	6	Majors Park, Aurora	Holmes et al
Lapland Longspur	10; 11	9; 3	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter; Barth
"	11	2	Forestville	VerHague
"	11	5	Somerset	D'Anna, Potter
"	11; 15; 21	45; 8; 5	Yates	D'Anna, Potter; Thomas; Miles
"	21	2	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
Snow Bunting	11	80	Forestville	VerHague
"	11; 21	550; 675	Wilson	Dirnberger; Watkins
"	18, 21	250, 275	Alexander	Beattie, Dart
"	21, 27	330, 140	Bethany	Beattie
"	22	65	Independence	Reichman
* Pine Warbler	1-28	1	Port Weller, Ont.(f)	Dekker
* Chipping Sparrow	9-13	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Haines
White-crowned Sparrow	1	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Miller
"	1, 21	6, 4	Bethany	Beattie
"	7, 18	1	Independence	Reichman
"	15	3	Portland	Hardenburg
"	26	18	Sheridan	VerHague
"	26, 28	1, 2	Wilson(f)	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)</u>	1-28	1 PV	Colden	J&K Landau
Red-winged Blackbird	16	1	Tift NP	Yoerg
"	21	6	Tonawanda	Watson, Pawlicki
Purple Finch	1	3	Cuba	Morris
"	7	3	Roger Tory Peterson Inst.	Corliss
"	7	2	Amherst	Sawsusch
"	8; 10	5; 4	Fort Niagara SP	Humann, Fell, Barth; D'Anna
* White-winged Crossbill	1	1	Ripley	Raszkowski
Common Redpoll	1; 3	3; 1	Shelby	Morien; Barth
"	2	4	Portland	Hardenburg
"	2, 15	1, 2	Wellsville	Allen
"	5-28	1-3	Wilson(f)	D'Anna, Potter
"	19	13	Independence	Reichman
"	21	1	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
"	28	1	Amherst	Morgante
Pine Siskin	1-28	9-27	Fonthill, Ont.	Roy

<u>Species</u>	<u>February</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	2	28	Niagara-on-the-Lake	Roy
"	7	2	Amherst	Sawusch
"	10	15	Wellsville	Allen
"	14	11	Cuba	Morris
"	22	5	Independence	Reichman
"	28	2	Amherst	Morgante

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 120  
Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the month: 7  
Total for the year (to date) 2015: **127**



The officers of the Buffalo Ornithological Society would like to improve our society both to increase member satisfaction and to attract new members. We ask you to take a few minutes to fill out this survey (link below) and to share your ideas on how this can be accomplished. [BOS Member Survey](#)

**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

#### Spring - Summer Calendar

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Bird Hotline** 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335

**Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog.** <http://bnnatureblog.com/>

**June 10: Wed.** The Annual June Picnic will be held at Tift Nature Preserve (Fuhrmann Blvd.). The picnic will be followed by a short field trip of Tift Nature Preserve. Bring your own food and we will eat at 6:00 PM near the Visitor Center.

### Noteworthy Records Database through 2014 – Update Available

*David F. Suggs*

The B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database, originally authored by Dean DiTommaso circa 1988, has been updated again, and is now current through December 2014. The count of records in the database, as published in the *Prothonotary* between 1964 and 2012, is now over 106,000.

I have uploaded a Microsoft Access database and Excel spreadsheet version of the records into a folder on the Dropbox storage website. I encourage members who would like to download these files to contact me with an email. Dropbox will reply with an email link to the files. Since the 2013 update, a few dozen records, scattered across many years, have been corrected. If you already have a copy of the database, it would be best to update with the complete 1964 through 2014 version.

For spreadsheet users – the Excel file should make the records more accessible for those who do not use the more involved Access software. The Excel file on Dropbox has been formatted as a table, which allows filtering to select and view records. Each column heading has a drop-down checklist, making it quite simple to extract any combination of records.

As in the past, I will be glad to provide selected records to assist any researchers. [DSuggs@buffaloornithologicalsociety.org](mailto:DSuggs@buffaloornithologicalsociety.org)



**Bohemian Waxwing photographed by Sue Barth at Majors Park, East Aurora on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

# The Prothonotary

ANN  
Q.L.  
671  
P96  
v.81  
no.4  
2015

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 4 April 2015



### THE MONTH: March

*Timothy Baird*

March did little to bring the region out of the cold trend established in January and February. Thomas' weather summary from the National Weather Service noted, "overall a cold...dry and quiet month for western New York." The average temperature at 29.2°F was nearly 5 degrees below the March normal. Arctic air not only brought low temperatures. Precipitation was half the expected with no significant storm systems. It was the 14th driest March on record with very little rainfall and only minor snowfalls. Lake Erie remained locked in ice for the duration.

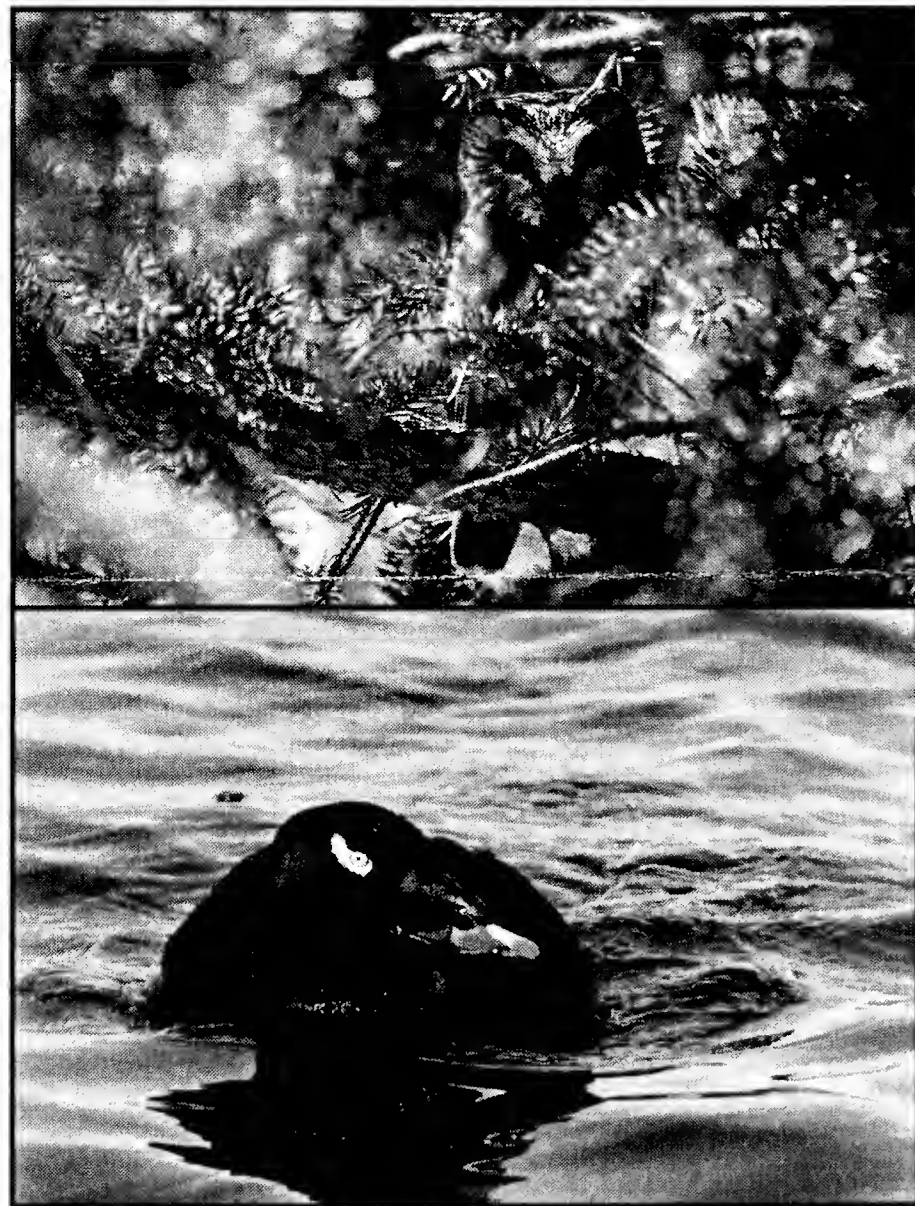
The weather conditions apparently did little to encourage the transit of species into or out of the region until late in the month. It was late March before there was an obvious movement of expected species. Landau recorded the passage of 2256 Turkey Vultures at the Hamburg Hawk Watch on the 29th. Reports of significant Snow Geese and Tundra Swan movement were from late in the month. Likewise, substantial Wood Duck numbers were not posted until Berry found 100 at Watts Flats WMA on the 29th.

Snow Buntings remained abundant early in the month. The Oregon type Dark-eyed Junco stayed throughout the month at the Landau's in Colden. Passerine arrivals such as Eastern Phoebe, Tree Swallows and Eastern Meadowlarks that might be expected to build a substantial presence in March had few reports or were not observed in large numbers. Even the blackbirds arrived later this year.

With Lake Erie mostly ice covered this month, many of our waterfowl records are from areas with open water such as the Niagara River, and the Buffalo and Dunkirk Harbors. Noteworthy waterfowl include Ross's Goose at Newstead (Mitchell *et al.*), Eurasian Wigeon at Dunkirk Harbor (Lenz) and Pomfret (VerHague, Salim, Harbison), King Eider at Buffalo Harbor (Pawlicki, D'Anna, Barth), and Barrow's Goldeneye at Point Breeze (Guthrie, Sammarco,

Yates, and Somerset (D'Anna). March 23rd had a flight of 54 Double-crested Cormorants at the Hamburg Hawk Watch location (Zebehazy) indicative of arriving birds.

Rose-Burney recorded a good passage of Red-shouldered Hawks at the Hamburg Hawk Watch on March 29th. An immature Golden Eagle was spotted in Alden on the 28th by the Suggs. This eagle report noted the identifying characteristics for a young Golden Eagle, including: white patches at the base of the



(Top) Northern Saw-whet Owl photographed by Sue Barth at Wilson on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and (Bottom) White-winged Scoter photographed by Sue Barth at Dunkirk Harbor on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

- |    |   |                    |
|----|---|--------------------|
| 25 | <b>The Month</b>                        | Yoerg), all single |
|    | <i>Timothy Baird</i>                    | birds. Good        |
| 27 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>               | numbers of Red-    |
|    | <i>Joe Mitchell &amp; Statisticians</i> | necked Grebes      |
| 32 | <b>Calendar</b>                         | occurred mid-      |
|    |   | month at Olcott,   |

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebehazy

**Society Officers:**

President: Michael Morgante  
V. President: David Suggs  
Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
Secretary: Debbie Suggs  
Statisticians: Tim Baird  
Willie D'Anna  
Mike Morgante  
Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

**Council:**

2013-2015	Joseph Fell Michael Galas Lynne Landon
2014-2016	Alec Humann Donna DeLeon Debbie Suggs
2015-2017	Thomas O'Donnell Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney

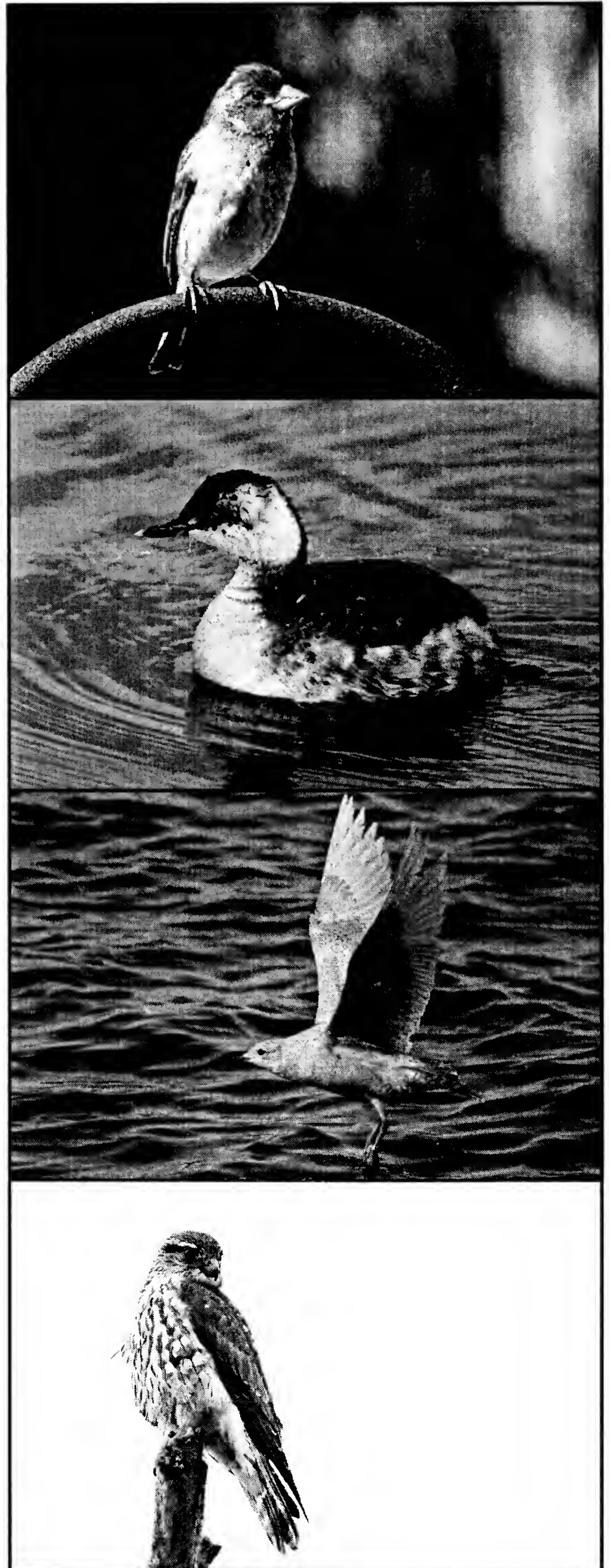
primaries under the wing and a tail with a broad terminal band and a white base. Several reports show Rough-legged Hawks lingering into late March. All the reports of Snowy Owls were of single birds scattered throughout the month at several locations.

A Common Raven on March 12th at the Hamburg Hawk Watch was unusual for the location (Landau). There were many reports of Common Redpolls and Pine Siskins. The only report for Evening Grosbeak is a single bird from Independence on the 18th (Reichman). This species many years ago had an abundant seasonal presence in the

region to the point where some people who were feeding birds complained about the exorbitant amount of sunflower seeds the grosbeaks consumed. In the last several years, Evening Grosbeaks have been scarce and an exciting find.

Following several seasons of writing summary articles for *The Prothonotary*, it is a notable change that I have not had the opportunity to cite Bill Watson's significant contributions to the B.O.S. Noteworthy Records. Bill's death has impacted the B.O.S. community in many ways. We lost a great birder, a friend, and a gentleman.

My thanks to Mike Morgante and Gerry Rising for their helpful suggestions.



(Top to Bottom) Purple Finch (Orchard Park, March 28<sup>th</sup>), Horned Grebe (Dunkirk Harbor, March 29<sup>th</sup>), Iceland Gull (Dunkirk Harbor, March 8<sup>th</sup>), and Merlin (Akron, March 26<sup>th</sup>) photographed by Sue Barth.

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Gr. White-fronted Goose	29F	1	Newfane	Yoerg
Snow Goose	3	85	Dunkirk Harbor	Szklenski
"	20	9	Westfield	Mosher
"	25; 28	250; 2070	Royalton	Morien; D&D Suggs
"	25	570	Yates	D'Anna
"	25	5350	Carlton	D'Anna
"	27	1500	Medina	Morien
"	28	500	Point Breeze	Sharon
"	29	3000	Somerset	Morien, Coleman
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	26	1	Newstead	Mitchell et al
* Cackling Goose	16F, 25; 29	10, 3; 10	Somerset	D'Anna; Yoerg
"	17	7	Sheridan	VerHague
"	24; 26	9; 4	Newstead	Pawlicki; Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	28	3	Batavia WWTP	Podoliak
"	28	5, 3	Pomfret	VerHague; Lenz
"	31	1	Orchard Park	Holmes
Mute Swan	7, 9	6	Dunkirk Harbor	Stineman; VerHague
"	15, 18	2	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
Trumpeter Swan	10	1 tagged	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
Tundra Swan	10F	2	Ashford	Rosenburg
"	13	47	Wellsville	Gregory
"	25	140	Yates	D'Anna
"	26; 27	110; 140	Iroquois NWR	Frauen; Morien
* Wood Duck	8F	1	Olean	Miller
"	12	2	Oakfield	Morien
"	29	100	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Gadwall	13	1	Buffalo Harbor	D'Anna et al
"	16; 17	12; 11	Pomfret	Barth; Mosher
* Eurasian Wigeon	28	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	29; 30	1	Pomfret	VerHague; Salim; Harbison
American Wigeon	10	25	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
"	13	5	Buffalo Harbor	D'Anna et al
"	28; 29	20	Pomfret	Lenz; Salim
"	28	20	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Podoliak
American Black Duck	28	15	Pomfret	Lenz
* Blue-winged Teal	10F	1	Orchard Park	Ackerson
"	12	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Fell
"	27	8	Pomfret	VerHague
Northern Shoveler	14F	2	Olcott	Weber
"	16	1	Yates	D'Anna
Northern Pintail	1F	1	Buffalo	Fell
"	10	28	Wilson	D'Anna
"	25	62	Shelby	Morien
"	28	100	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Green-winged Teal	13F	1	Buffalo Harbor	D'Anna, Pawlicki
"	15	1	Point Breeze	Guthrie
"	28	12	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Canvasback	1	8	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
"	4F	17	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	28	150	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Guthrie; Lenz
Redhead	4, 12; 17	3; 62; 83	Batavia WWTP	Beattie; Morien
"	6	1	Olean	Morris
"	21	300	Beaver Island SP	Barton
"	21; 29	69; 80	Celeron	Berry; Lenz
Ring-necked Duck	10F	12	Orchard Park	Ackerson
"	10F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	13, 25	4, 44	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	30	142	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
Greater Scaup	1, 13	1500, 1100	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Lesser Scaup	1; 8	95; 120	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki; Pawlicki, Guthrie
"	18	3	Batavia WWTP	Morien
* King Eider	1; 13	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki; D'Anna, Barth
Harlequin Duck	1; 8	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki; Pawlicki, Guthrie
Surf Scoter	7	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Stineman
"	8	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, Guthrie
"	11	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher
"	20	1	Fort Niagara SP	Sharon
"	28	1	Point Breeze	Sharon
White-winged Scoter	5	1	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	10	115	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
"	13	55	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, D'Anna
Black Scoter	1; 13; 31	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki; Potter; Harbison
"	8	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, Guthrie
Long-tailed Duck	8	125	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, Guthrie
Bufflehead	1, 7	410	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
Common Goldeneye	1	760	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
"	1	500	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	15; 22	1 PV	Point Breeze	Guthrie, Sammarco; Yoerg
Hooded Merganser	4F	2	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	28	50	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Common Merganser	19	250	Niagara River - Buffalo	Dupont
Red-breasted Merganser	28	130	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Ruddy Duck	5; 17	2; 6	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg; Mosher
"	10F	2	Orchard Park	Ackerson
"	12	2	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	31	25	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
Red-throated Loon	6; 14	2; 2	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	10	6	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	14	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	7; 15; 13	12; 13; 23	Buffalo Harbor	Yoerg; Suggs; Pawlicki et al
"	22	4	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
Common Loon	5	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
"	12	2	Buffalo Harbor	Humann; Seidman
"	22	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Fell
Pied-billed Grebe	13F	1	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Horned Grebe	13	5	Buffalo Harbor	D'Anna et al
"	17; 28	18; 24	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher; Lenz
* Red-necked Grebe	10	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	7; 13	1; 2	Buffalo Harbor	Yoerg; Pawlicki, D'Anna
"	16	12	Olcott	D'Anna
"	16	25	Yates	D'Anna
"	16	88	Somerset	D'Anna
Double-crest. Cormorant	23F	54	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy
"	26	7	Wellsville	Reichman
* Great Egret	27F	5	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
Black-cr. Night-Heron	9	2	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	22	3	Niagara River - Buffalo	Fell
Black Vulture	9, 16; 31	3, 7; 5	Lewiston	Sharon; Fell
Turkey Vulture	1	3	Lewiston	Yoerg

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	7F	1	Hamburg	Mitchell
"	7F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	29	2256	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
* Osprey	28F	1	Hamburg	Morien
Bald Eagle	3; 7	11; 12	Dunkirk Harbor	Szklenski; Persaud
Red-shouldered Hawk	1F	1	East Aurora	Barth
"	6	1	Cuba	Morris
"	29	55	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Rose-Burney
Rough-legged Hawk	19	2	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
"	21	1	Alexander	Dart
"	25	2	Hartland	D'Anna
"	28	3	Cuba	Morris
"	30	2	Jamestown Airport	Stineman
* Golden Eagle	28F	1 juv.	Alden	D&D Suggs
American Coot	10	7	Orchard Park	Ackerson
"	14	100	Dunkirk Harbor	Stineman
Sandhill Crane	16F	1	Sheridan	VerHague
"	16F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy
"	30	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* Killdeer	8F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Guthrie
"	10	1	Amherst	Pirson
* Wilson's Snipe	24F	4	Portland	Hardenburg
"	30	1	Sheridan	VerHague
* American Woodcock	9F	1	Jamestown	Leenders
"	24	2	Sheridan	VerHague
Bonaparte's Gull	21	160	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
"	22	15	Grand Island	Thomas
Little Gull	24; 29	1; 4	Lewiston	Gralak; J&K Landau et al
Herring Gull	10	1200	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	22	1200	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
Iceland Gull	5; 8	7; 9	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg; Pawlicki, Guthrie
"	10, 27	2, 1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	10	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	21	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	22	2	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
Lesser Black-backed Gull	10	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	14	1	Grand Island	Thomas
"	28	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	31	1	Beaver Island SP	Sawusch
Glaucous Gull	7	2	Buffalo Harbor	Yoerg
"	5; 17	3	Dunkirk Harbor	Yoerg; Mosher
"	15	1	Tifft NP	Humann
"	16	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
"	22	3	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
"	25	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
Great Black-backed Gull	8	313	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Guthrie
Snowy Owl	5	1	Grand Island	Humann
"	5	1	Shelby	Morien
"	8; 22	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Lewis; Pawlicki
"	10	1	Buffalo Harbor	Yoerg
"	18	1	Cambria	Walters
Long-eared Owl	30	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
Short-eared Owl	3	1	Ransomville	Drake
"	18; 31	4; 1	Shelby	Palermo; Barth
"	28	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Podoliak
* Northern Saw-whet Owl	21F, 31	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna, Barth
Red-headed Woodpecker	1-31	1	Hamburg	Zebehazy, Russell
Merlin	5	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	8	1	Amherst	Pirson
"	14	1	Portland	Hardenburg
"	14	1	Shelby	Morien
"	15	1	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau, Humann
"	26	1	Akron	Barth
Peregrine Falcon	18	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Stineman

<u>Species</u>	<u>March</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	26	2	Buffalo	Harbison
* Eastern Phoebe	25F	1	Amherst	Fell
"	26	1	Roger Tory Peterson Inst.	Henshaw
Northern Shrike	4; 29	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; D&D Suggs
"	4	2	Lyndonville	Morien
"	15	1	Ellery	VerHague
"	20	1	Olcott	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	1	Shelby	Yoerg
"	25	1	Hartland	D'Anna
Common Raven	12	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Landau
"	16	1	Tonawanda	Humann, Thomas
* Tree Swallow	9F	4	Gerry	Moeller
"	9F	10	Alexander	Dart
"	27; 28	6; 3	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Baldwin
Winter Wren	10	1	Wellsville	Gregory
* American Pipit	11F, 23	1, 21	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	12	2	Sheridan	VerHague
"	27	20	Wales	Barth
Lapland Longspur	2	15	Shelby	Morien
"	20	1	Sheridan	VerHague
Snow Bunting	1	300	Wilson	Yoerg
"	1	120	Independence	Reichman
"	5	120	Bethany	Beattie
"	3, 5	200, 150	Alexander	Beattie
Chipping Sparrow	7; 15	1	Independence	Reichman; Morris
* Fox Sparrow	21F, 22	1, 2	Independence	Reichman
Swamp Sparrow	28F	5	Caneadea	Duncan
White-crowned Sparrow	4	10	Sheridan	VerHague
"	5, 20	5, 2	Bethany	Beattie
"	3-31	1-2	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)</u>	1-31	1 PV	Colden	J&K Landau
Red-winged Blackbird	2F	1	Orchard Park	Barth
"	8	20	Clarence	Morgante
* Eastern Meadowlark	16F	1	Hamburg Hawkwatch	Zebehazy
"	18	1	Portland	Hardenburg
* Rusty Blackbird	20F	1	Wellsville	Gregory
"	29; 31	10; 25	Iroquois NWR	DeLeon; Mark
* Common Grackle	5F	1	Portland	Hardenburg
"	10	2	Marilla	Holmes
Purple Finch	8	1	Buffalo	Coleman
"	17	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	18	1	Orchard Park	Barth
"	21	1	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Rose-Burney
"	21	2	Independence	Reichman
Common Redpoll	5	10	Olean	Briarton
"	15	8	Independence	Morris
"	20, 25, 31	60, 67, 40	Wilson	D'Anna et al
"	1-29	1-3	9 locations	Multiple Observers
Pine Siskin	4	8	Colden	J&K Landau
"	20	4	Cuba	Morris
"	21	4	Independence	Reichman
"	26	4	Shelby	Morien
"	27	12	Wales	Barth
"	30	7	Wellsville	Allen
* Evening Grosbeak	18F	1	Independence	Reichman
Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year:				127
Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the month:				22
Total for the year (to date) 2015:				<b>149</b>

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



(Clockwise, from Top) Snow Geese (some of the 5350 observed at this location) photographed by Willie D'Anna in the Town of Carlton on March 25<sup>th</sup>, Eastern Screech-Owl photographed by Willie D'Anna in the Town of Yates on March 29<sup>th</sup>, Red-shouldered Hawk photographed by Sue Barth at South Wales on March 18<sup>th</sup>, Ross's Goose photographed by Joe Mitchell at Newstead on March 26<sup>th</sup>, Blue-winged Teal photographed by Sue Barth at Forest Lawn on March 19<sup>th</sup>, and Red-necked Grebe photographed by Willie D'Anna at the west branch of Twelve Mile Creek in the Town of Wilson on March 27<sup>th</sup>.



**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **Summer - Fall Calendar and Announcements**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird:** 716-896-1271

**Bird Hotline:** 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335

**Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog:** <http://bnnatureblog.com/>

**June 14: Sunday. Field trip to Hunter's Creek County Park for breeding forest birds.** Leader: Joe Mitchell ([josephcmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:josephcmitchell@gmail.com) 716-604-7701). Meet at 7:30am in the parking lot on Centerline Rd. Half day trip. Terrain will be moderately strenuous at times and likely cover 2+ miles. Hiking boots/shoes recommended. Directions: Hunter's Creek County Park is located on Centerline Road in the Town of Wales, Erie County. The parking lot is located on the north side of Centerline Rd. less than a quarter mile east of Vermont Hill Rd. (if coming from the west) and 1 mile west of Hunter's Creek Rd. (if coming from the east).

**June 27: Saturday. Bill Watson memorial field trip to Beaver Island State Park.** Meet in the large parking lot north of the swimming beach at Beaver Island State Park at 7:30 pm. We will take a short walk around portions of the park before watching Great Egrets return at dusk to their nesting colony on Motor Island. Leader: Jim Pawlicki, 716-289-2204 or [jmpawli10@gmail.com](mailto:jmpawli10@gmail.com).

**July 6 - Oct. 9 (Weekly): Bill Watson memorial waterbird counts on the upper Niagara River and Iroquois NWR and vicinity.** Please consider participating in this effort to help count Great Egrets and other colonial nesting waterbirds on the upper Niagara River and around the Iroquois NWR complex as they return to communal roosts starting approximately one hour prior

to sunset. Contact Jim Pawlicki ([jmpawli10@gmail.com](mailto:jmpawli10@gmail.com);

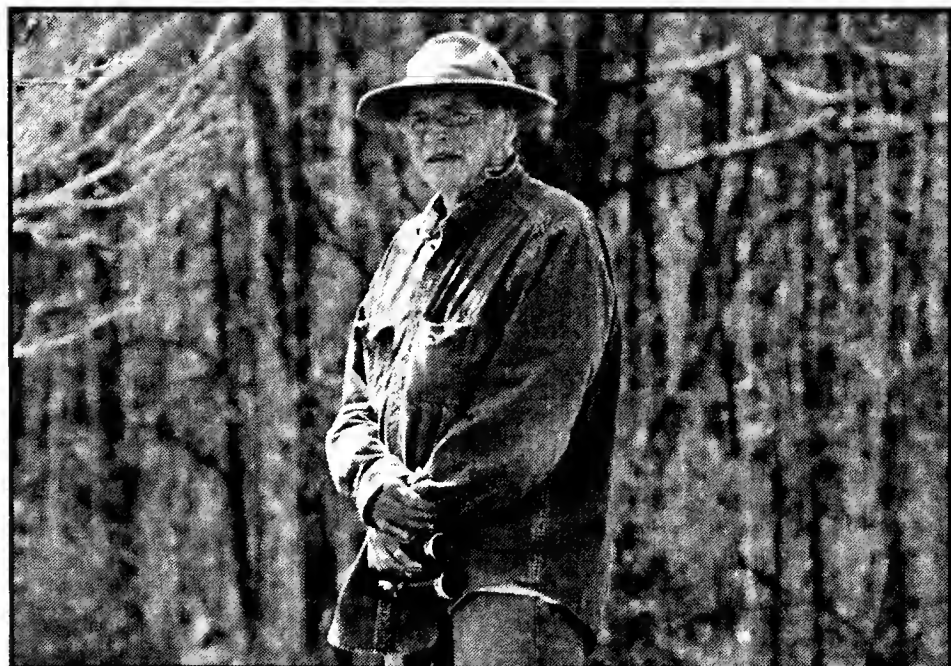
Niagara River) and/or Celeste Morien

([celeste.morien@gmail.com](mailto:celeste.morien@gmail.com); Iroquois NWR) to coordinate count efforts and data compilation.

**July 26: Sunday. Canada Shorebird Field Trip.** Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we are going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money, if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297).

**Aug. 30: Sunday. Canada Shorebird Field Trip.** Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we are going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money, if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297).

**Oct. 21: Wednesday, 2015 Vaughan Lecture, "Birds-of-Paradise: Extreme, Bizarre, Extraordinary", 7PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Dr. Edwin Scholes, Evolutionary Biologist and Director of Research & Interpretation at the Macaulay Library at Cornell University, will be speaking about the Birds of Paradise Project. In 2012, Edwin Scholes and world-renowned wildlife photographer Tim Laman released the National Geographic book "*Birds of Paradise: Revealing the World's Most Extraordinary Birds*". This book was the culmination of a near decades long quest to find and document all 39 species of birds-of-paradise for the first time. Join Ed for an engaging presentation with fascinating stories of research and adventure paired with stunning imagery, sounds and video illuminating the secret lives of these incredible birds.



# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 5 May 2015

### THE MONTH: April

David Gordon

I am pleased to report that the month of April lived up to its reputation as a great month for birders featuring great change and increase of avian sightings. Normal April weather, very welcome after such a hearty winter, was a fitting backdrop for such a great month. The number of species reported in the BOS area in 2015 increased by over 50 this month. The arrival of and pass-through of many of our favorite seasonal birds was enjoyable to see. Joining these was a first-ever bird, a second-ever bird, and a first-ever-in-spring bird for the region!

Weather-wise, the BOS region enjoyed a "comfortable April" that featured a slightly lower average temperature of 45 °F and a nearly normal ice-out date of April 18. The month had no significant precipitation events. The total precipitation of 2.70 inches was slightly lower than normal and the fifteen days with measurable precipitation, was one more than normal. The gusty, 62 mph winds of April 10 did cause some damage and will stand as the only really dominant weather activity. The weather of the month, as summarized by the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Buffalo, can be seen in detail at <http://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=buf>

Against this weather setting and in the arrival of the region's migrant visitors and non-resident nesters listed in Noteworthy Records, a few significant birds came to us. Jim Pawlicki reported a Neotropic Cormorant, a first time visitor to the area, on the morning of April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Jim was driving on the Thruway near Fredonia and noticed that one individual of a flock of about a dozen cormorants was clearly smaller than the others. Good fortune had the birds continue across his view and then directly over his car. He pulled over and with a scramble for cell phone camera and binoculars, Jim

- 33 **The Month**  
*David Gordon*
- 35 **Hamburg Hawk Watch 2015**  
*Jim Landau*
- 36 **Noteworthy Records**  
*Joe Mitchell & Statisticians*
- 42 **BOS April Count - 2015**  
*Compiler: Joe Fell*
- 46 **Calendar**

photographed the bird and made the initial ID and reported it on the text alert. Gale VerHague saw it later that morning, the dozen "d-c's"



(Top) Say's Phoebe photographed by Joe Mitchell at Conewango WMA on April 12<sup>th</sup>, (Middle) Neotropic (right side of photograph) and Double-crested Cormorants photographed by Willie D'Anna at Pomfret on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, and (Bottom) Neotropic Cormorant photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Pomfret on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebehazy

#### Society Officers:

President: Michael Morgante  
V. President: David Suggs  
Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
Secretary: Debbie Suggs  
Statisticians: Tim Baird  
Willie D'Anna  
Mike Morgante  
Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

#### Council:

2013-2015	Joseph Fell Michael Galas Lynne Landon
2014-2016	Alec Humann Donna DeLeon Debbie Suggs
2015-2017	Thomas O'Donnell Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney

and the smaller tag-a-long "n-t", further along their flight direction at Lake Erie State Park. Later that day, Sue Barth spotted it at the pond on Van Buren Road. Several birders got a chance to see this bird before it left our view on April 25.

Feeling the pressure of the many BOSers in the field participating in the April count held on Sunday, April 12, the area birds yielded good species numbers and many rarities. Included in this group was a Say's Phoebe sighted by Joe Mitchell on Swamp Road in the Conewango Swamp WMA. It was behaving like its flycatcher self, repeatedly leaving a perch to capture an insect and then

returning to where it was. This activity allowed other birders on the count to leave nearby and not so nearby sections to view this second-ever visit by a Say's. Another interesting bird seen was a first-ever-for-spring Rufous Hummingbird found at Niagara-on-the-Lake by Arthur and Ursula Eley. They saw this bird at close range as it foraged over crocus flowers and quickly realized that this male hummingbird was brown or reddish-brown and without any green. The day also revealed a Yellow-headed Blackbird at a residence, also in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Paula Clarke, Rick Young, and John Stevens saw it below a feeder. It later flew to a nearby marshy area where it continued to be visible for a time. As is often the case with these, the yellow-headed was not located again that day. Sightings of Fish Crows in Port Weller and Port Dalhousie, Ontario and a slightly early House Wren in Eden rounded out the count day standouts.

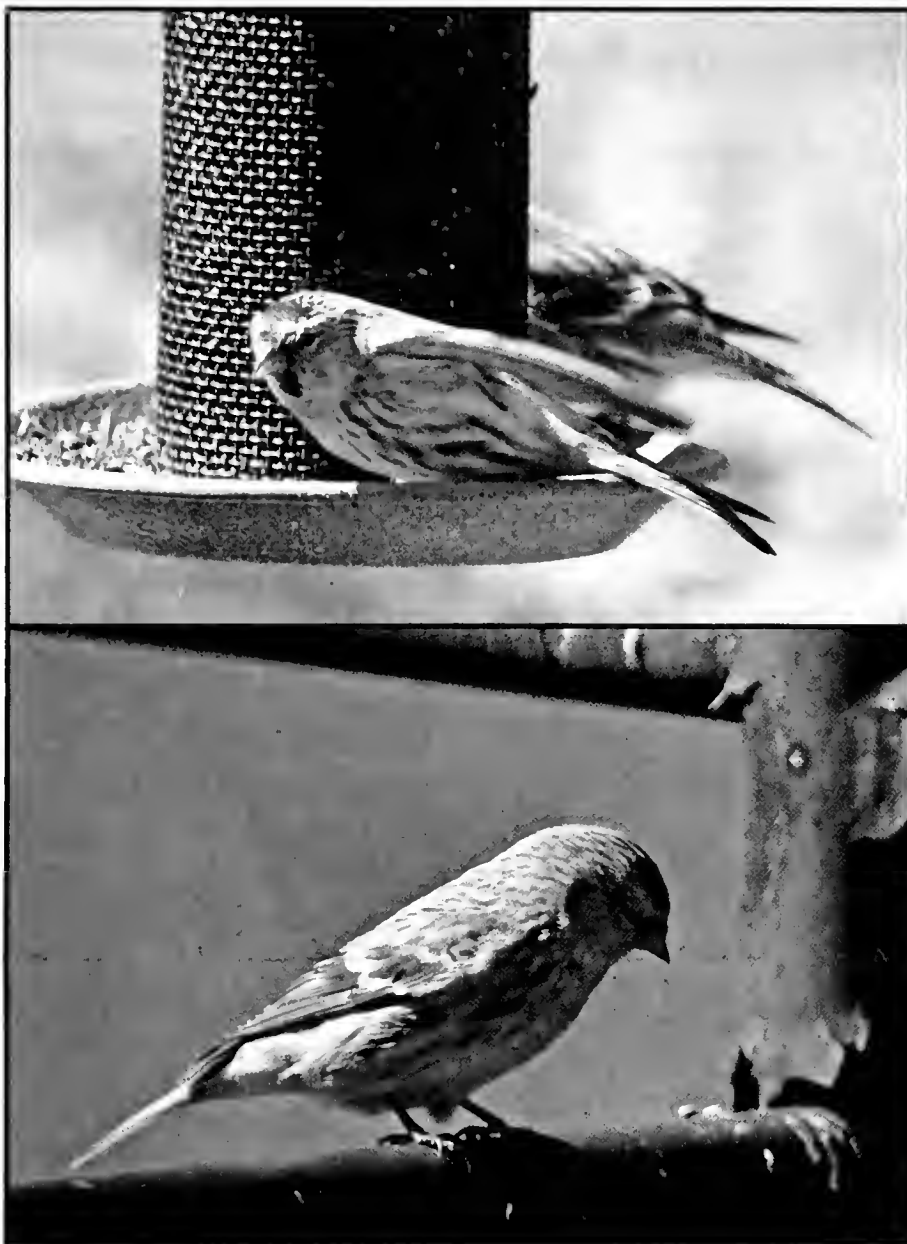
Early in the month, April 1 even, Willie D'Anna sighted a Hoary Redpoll at his backyard feeder. While other candidates at the feeder could have been considered "hoary type", an exhaustive viewing of this bird allowed it to be considered a true hoary. His verification report states that "its bill appeared smaller and more "pushed in"" and that compared to the hoary-types, its plumage "was much paler on the mantle and sides of the neck". Further, the "rump appeared to be white and unstreaked". Hoary it is!

Another April bird sighting of note was that of ten American Avocets reported by Kayo Roy. First seen by Jeremy Bensette at noon on April 18, these ten birds were positioned close together about 200 yards off shore in Lake Ontario a short distance west of the west pier of Port Dalhousie Harbor. The lighting and a slight chop to the water made the viewing less than ideal but it was clear to Kayo and the many birders that gathered that these were indeed American Avocets. Kayo remarked that this viewing experience was much different from the shoreline view we often see that has them moving about on slender legs in shallow water.

April is indeed a favorite month for us as we gather signs and indications of the manner of the continuing migration and plan out our birding days and trips. Will we have to contend with increasing leaf density or will we get great open views of our beloved warblers? Is the migration early, late, or about normal? Was that really a House Wren calling too early? Yes we do love April and it was a pleasure sharing just a few of the highlights with you.



(Top to Bottom) Ross's Goose photographed by Weber at Somerset on April 15<sup>th</sup>, American Avocet photographed by Len Manning at Port Dalhousie, Ontario on April 18<sup>th</sup>, and Yellow-headed Blackbird photographed by Paula Clarke at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario on April 12<sup>th</sup>.



Hoary (top-front and bottom) and Common Redpoll (top-back) photographed by Willie D'Anna at Wilson on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Spring 2015 Hamburg Hawk Watch Summary

*Jim Landau, Coordinator Hamburg Hawk Watch*

**Summary:** Spring in Western New York started cool with air temperatures in March well below normal. After a very cold January and February the 38 °F reading on the 3rd of March was the first above freezing temperature for Buffalo since January 29th, and the extreme cold was slow to loosen its grip. Our watch coverage suffered somewhat, both in terms of days and hours covered, due to deep snow road conditions which rendered both our primary and secondary watch sites inaccessible for the first five days of the season. Even after gaining room to park at Lakeside Cemetery thanks to the efforts of Terry Depreta, Maintenance Supervisor, we logged no migrants at all until the 11th, when the flight finally got underway. Lake Erie had an "ice out" date of April 18th this year which is surprisingly very close to normal considering the harshness of the winter.

This spring saw 14 of the of the 16 migrant raptors and vultures that can reasonably be expected to pass by the hawk watch, the omissions this year being Black Vulture and Northern Goshawk. Never logged at Hamburg in double-digits, the absence of these two

species can be attributed to either simply being "no shows" or possibly having slipped by unnoticed or as "unidentified." Although seen each season, Golden Eagle rightly belongs in this group as well with numbers so low that they really aren't relevant with regard to trends.

The accompanying 10-year table reveals a 2015 season with a new high total species count for the month of March, courtesy of a strong Turkey Vulture flight. There are some other bright spots as well, as reflected in the numbers for Osprey, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon.

Osprey is evidencing a continuing increase for the fourth year, after a slide over the prior six. Bald Eagle continues to make gains, which should come as no surprise to anyone who has followed its much-touted nationwide resurgence. Cooper's Hawk shows to be a resilient migrant over the past ten-plus years. Merlin appears to be on a roll, statistically speaking, despite its relatively modest numbers. Another species that has never broken out into double-digits is Peregrine Falcon. Its numbers have declined somewhat over the past ten years, however a brighter picture emerges when viewed from an eighteen year perspective. Certainly their increasing incidence of nest sites in Western New York is an encouraging sign of an improving population.

Species in decline at Hamburg are Northern Harrier, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Rough-legged Hawk, and American Kestrel.

Northern Harrier is listed as threatened by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (habitat loss being a prime cause) and has seen a steady drop in numbers at Hamburg since 1998. Sharp-shinned Hawk is trending down, despite an up-tick over last year's count. Red-shouldered Hawk displays erratic swings in numbers from year to year but is nonetheless heading down. Broad-winged Hawk, while showing a downward trend, is a somewhat "special case." Neighboring area hawk watches that extend their coverage through the end of May, or even into June, routinely log significant numbers of immature Broad-winged Hawks that we at Hamburg, with our mid-May season closing, never witness. While our Broad-wing data indicates a slight decline it is certainly possible that coverage through the end of May would provide a different picture. Red-tailed Hawk is decreasing in migration past Hamburg, which is somewhat surprising given their ubiquitous presence in Western New York. Rough-legged Hawk appears to experience four- to five-year cycles which may portend a jump in numbers over the next two seasons. Finally, despite ups and downs from year to year American Kestrel is on the decline, at least as reflected in our numbers.

An additional 56 non-raptor species were noted this season, highlighted this spring by Snow Goose, Iceland Gull, Wood Thrush, Field Sparrow, Indigo Bunting and Pine Siskin.

*(Hamburg Hawk Watch; continued on page 41)*

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snow Goose	1; 26	1350; 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Coleman; Lenz
"	3	30	Lockport	Donhauser
"	6	20	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Humann
"	9	6	Somerset	D'Anna
<u>Ross's Goose</u>	5	1	Somerset	Weber
Cackling Goose	4	1	Sinking Ponds WS	Holmes
Trumpeter Swan	4; 5	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague; Goetz
"	11; 21	1	Tonawanda WMA	Fox; Lawrence
Tundra Swan	1	50	Long Point SP	Berry
"	1, 2	3, 9	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	1; 4	49; 73	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Mashburn
"	4	6	Tift NP	Rose-Burney
Gadwall	7, 30	39, 36	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Eurasian Wigeon	13; 14	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg; Beattie
"	24; 25	1	Iroquois NWR	Sawusch; Adams, D'Anna, Potter
American Wigeon	2	33	Celeron	Berry
"	10	100	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Coleman
American Black Duck	11	8	Elba	Fox
Mallard	10	240	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Blue-winged Teal	8	16	Batavia	Beattie
"	14	15	Pomfret	VerHague
"	17, 24	14	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Northern Shoveler	3	20	Oak Orchard WMA	Lawrence; Morien
"	11; 22	20; 18	Iroquois NWR	Thomas; Bemont
Northern Pintail	10, 17	445, 573	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	11	60	Elba	Fox
Green-winged Teal	11	100	Elba	Fox
"	17, 24	162, 68	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Canvasback	9; 15	35	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Humann; Mitchell
Redhead	2	90	Celeron	Berry
"	4	100	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	6	77	Batavia WWTP	Morien
"	27	55	Ellery	Vanstrom
Ring-necked Duck	2, 3	82, 65	Pomfret	VerHague
"	2; 4	138; 159	Batavia WWTP	Beattie; Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	3	81	Orchard Park	Zebehazy
"	4	200	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	17	586	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Greater Scaup	2	450	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	9; 15	46; 40	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Humann; Mitchell
Lesser Scaup	5; 11	68; 158	Batavia WWTP	Beattie; Fox
"	6	35	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
Surf Scoter	16, 25	2, 1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	27	2	Cuba Lake	Morris
White-winged Scoter	7	23	Beaver Island SP	Humann
"	25	49	Wilson	D'Anna
"	27	2	Cuba Lake	Morris

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Black Scoter	1; 2	2	Buffalo Harbor	J&K Landau; Pawlicki, Mitchell
Long-tailed Duck	5	66	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
"	25	730	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30	400	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Bufflehead	5	60	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
"	11; 30	142; 103	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Lawrence
"	17	50	Cuba Lake	Gram
Common Goldeneye	25	28	Dunkirk	Lenz
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	2	1 PV	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Hooded Merganser	6	26	Pomfret	VerHague
"	7; 9	25, 28	Tifft NP	Fell; Humann
Common Merganser	4; 9	69; 53	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence et al; Beattie
Red-breasted Merganser	25	1000	Dunkirk Harbor	McGowan; Anderson; Medler
Ruddy Duck	17	163	Olcott	Weber
"	19; 23	86; 95	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Lawrence
"	25	115	Mayville	Lenz
Red-throated Loon	1; 2	3; 2	Buffalo Harbor	Harbison; Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	3	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Christensen
"	19	1	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr
"	25	66	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Common Loon	25	87	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30	28	Point Breeze	Lawrence
Pied-billed Grebe	28	11	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Horned Grebe	4	49	Dunkirk Harbor	Mashburn
"	18	40	Cuba Lake	Gram
"	25	190	Mayville	Lenz
Red-necked Grebe	5	2	Buffalo Harbor	Seidman
"	16	9	Wilson	D'Anna
"	19	4; 3	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Lawrence
"	25	40	Wilson	D'Anna
* <u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>	23	1	Dunkirk	Pawlicki
"	23-25	1	Pomfret	D'Anna et al; Pawlicki; Roy
Double-crest. Cormorant	17	66	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	25	800	Dunkirk Harbor	McGowan, Anderson, Medler
"	25	1800	Point Gratiot	Lenz
"	30	600	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
* American Bittern	11F	1	Iroquois NWR	Mance-Coniglio
"	13; 14 -16	2; 1	Tifft NP	Sharon; Morris et al
"	29	1	Grand Island	Humann
Great Blue Heron	5	85	Tonawanda	Humann
Great Egret	5	2	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	6	12	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Yoerg
"	26	6	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
* Green Heron	10F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Fell
Black-cr. Night-Heron	24	28	Tonawanda	Humann
Black Vulture	30	1	Joseph Davis SP	Kerr
Turkey Vulture	2; 6	1879; 1291	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
"	2	2867	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Osprey	6; 9	26; 12	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
Bald Eagle	3	10	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence
"	13	18	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
Northern Harrier	2	6	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Sharp-shinned Hawk	6	54	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
Cooper's Hawk	9; 26	11; 10	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau; Fell
Red-shouldered Hawk	1, 2, 6	20, 12, 32	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
"	2	29	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Broad-winged Hawk	26	210	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
Red-tailed Hawk	2; 6	43; 36	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
"	2	67	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Rough-legged Hawk	1, 2	2, 3	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
"	2	8	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Golden Eagle	2; 13	1; 1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence; Yoerg
"	9	1	Sinking Ponds WS	Holmes

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	16	1	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
"	19	1	Tifft NP	Yoerg
"	26	1	Iroquois NWR	Lenz
Virginia Rail	15; 19	1; 4	Tifft NP	Barth, DiTomasso; Yerkovich
* Sora	18F	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	19	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	26	1	Pomfret	Barth, VerHague
Common Gallinule	15	1	Tifft NP	Barth, DiTomasso
"	17; 24	2; 10	Iroquois NWR	Morien
American Coot	17; 24	17; 65	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Sandhill Crane	1-26	1-2	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al
"	4; 15	2; 1	Jamestown Audubon	Stineman; Tome
"	9	2	Somerset	D'Anna
"	19-21	1-2	Shelby	Morien
"	25	1	Harmony	Berry
* American Avocet	18	10	Port Dalhousie, Ont.	Roy
Spotted Sandpiper	15	1	Amherst	Fell
"	15	2	Sheridan	VerHague, Barth
Solitary Sandpiper	18	1	Newstead	Mitchell
"	19	1	Akron	Barth
* Greater Yellowlegs	3F; 11	4; 30	Iroquois NWR	Sharon; Morien
"	22	24	Dunkirk Airport	Barth
"	25	25	Elba	Mistur
* Lesser Yellowlegs	3F; 5; 21	1; 3; 11	Iroquois NWR	Sharon; Barton; Lawrence
Upland Sandpiper	14	2	Java	Kerr
"	19	2	Tillman WMA	Barth
* Pectoral Sandpiper	5F; 17	3; 11	Iroquois NWR	Barton; Morien
* Dunlin	13F	1	Iroquois NWR	Yoerg
"	19; 21	8; 19	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Lawrence
Wilson's Snipe	5	80	Sheridan	VerHague
Bonaparte's Gull	6	100	Queenston, Ont.	Yoerg
"	13	100	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	13	320	Squaw Island	Humann
"	25	500	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz, McGowan et al
"	25	333	Wilson	D'Anna
Little Gull	6	2	Queenston, Ont.	Yoerg
"	11	1	Buffalo Harbor	Seidman
"	23	1	Point Gratiot	Lawrence
"	24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
Iceland Gull	3, 4	1	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	4	2	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	25	1, 2	Dunkirk Harbor	McGowan et al; Purcell et al
"	26	1	Lake Erie SP	Morgante
"	26	1	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Fell
"	30	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	1	Celeron	Berry
"	4, 11	1	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	13	4	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	22	4	Wilson	D'Anna
"	27	1	Dunkirk	Zebehazy; VerHague
"	30	2	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Glaucous Gull	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence
"	4	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	25	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz et al
"	30	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
* Caspian Tern	11F	2	Olcott	Weber
"	13; 14	2; 1	Tifft NP	Sharon; Morris
"	25	17	Wilson	Morse; D'Anna
"	20, 26	8, 15	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
* Common Tern	4F	1	LaSalle Park	Rose-Burney; Humann
"	25	95	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz, McGowan et al
* Forster's Tern	25F	1	Cuba Lake	Lenz, McGowan et al
"	26	2	Point Gratiot	Lenz
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Snowy Owl	2	4	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	10	1	Somerset	Styres
Short-eared Owl	12	1	Tifft NP	Humann
"	14, 17	2, 1	Shelby	Morien
"	22	1	Waterport	Klotzbach
Northern Saw-whet Owl	3	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
* Chimney Swift	26F	1	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Fell
* Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	29F	2	Chautauqua	Akin
* <u>Rufous Hummingbird</u>	12	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Eyer
Red-headed Woodpecker	1-31	2	Hamburg	Zebehazy, Russell
"	2	3	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	2	1	Buffalo	Rose-Burney
"	2	1	Delaware Park	Barton
"	2	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
"	2	2	Tifft NP	Sharon
Merlin	2	1	Dunkirk	VerHague
"	2	1	Tifft NP	Younkin
"	2; 9	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence; Bemont
"	6	2	Port Weller, Ont.	Yoerg
"	8	2	Olean	Reed
"	9	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
"	19	1	Tillman WMA	Barth
"	19	1	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
"	25	1	Barcelona Harbor	Lenz
Peregrine Falcon	1	2	Buffalo State College	Walters
"	9	4	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
"	13	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
"	14	2	Niagara Falls	Walters
"	14	2	Lewiston Reservoir	Walters
"	25; 26	2	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz et al; Morgante
"	26	2	UB South Campus	Barton
"	24, 28	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* Least Flycatcher	25F	1	Elba	Mistur
* <u>Say's Phoebe</u>	12	1	Conewango Swamp WMA	Mitchell, D'Anna et al
* Eastern Kingbird	28F	2	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr
"	30	1	Dunkirk	VerHague
"	30	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Northern Shrike	4L	1	Iroquois NWR	Gralak
* Blue-headed Vireo	18F	1	Alfred	Brooks
"	19	1	Tifft NP	Yerkovich
* Warbling Vireo	29F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Rising, Hollister
<u>Fish Crow</u>	12	5	Pot Dalhousie, Ont.	Thornton, Smith
"	12	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Black et al
Common Raven	15	6	Attica	Beattie
"	17	2	Newfane	Wilson
"	29	1	Tonawanda	Barth
* Purple Martin	1F	2	Forestville	VerHague
"	26	16	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
Tree Swallow	3	100	Tonawanda WMA	Sharon
* Northern Rough-w. Swallow	10F	2	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Fell
"	21	25	Cuba	Morris
Bank Swallow	17	2	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
"	21	2	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
* Cliff Swallow	21F	2	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	22	1	Wilson	D'Anna
* Barn Swallow	3F	1	Delaware Park	Fell
"	3F	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
House Wren	12F	1	Eden	Harrington
"	16	1	Ashford	Rosenburg
"	16	1	Shelby	Morien
Winter Wren	2	1	Delaware Park	Barton
"	3	2; 1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Coleman; Fell
"	3	3	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg
* Marsh Wren	14F	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Beattie

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	30	2	Iroquois NWR	Beattie
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	14	1	Tifft NP	Fell
* Ruby-crowned Kinglet	9F	1	Alma	Ebeling
"	9F	1	Amherst	Morse
"	9F	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter
Hermit Thrush	6	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	19	7	Tifft NP	Yoerg
* Wood Thrush	30F	1	Shelby	Morien
Gray Catbird	18	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Fell
* Brown Thrasher	18	4	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Coleman
"	22	4	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
American Pipit	2; 6	3; 1	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Rising; Humann
"	14	2	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
Snow Bunting	2L	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
* Louisiana Waterthrush	11F	1	North Harmony	Vanstrom
"	20	2	Chestnut Ridge Park	Barth
* Northern Waterthrush	26F	3	Portland	VerHague, Barth
* Black-and-white Warbler	19F	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	30	1	Allegany SP	Leenders
* Nashville Warbler	29F; 30	1; 1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Dirnberger; Morris
* Common Yellowthroat	18F	1	Harmony	Berry
* Yellow Warbler	24F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
"	25	1	Tifft NP	O. Gall
"	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Potter, D'Anna
* Palm Warbler	19F; 25	1	Tifft NP	Humann et al; O.Gall; Lehner
Pine Warbler	8F-30	2	Orchard Park	M&W Zebehazy
"	10	1	Ashford	Rosenburg
"	13	8	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
"	15	4	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Harbison
Yellow-rumped Warbler	13	2	Reinstein Woods NP	Kerr
"	13	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
* Black-throat. Green Warbler	26F	6	Portland	VerHague, Barth
"	30	2	Allegany SP	Leenders
American Tree Sparrow	29	1	Marilla	Thomas
Chipping Sparrow	1F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	30	40	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
* Field Sparrow	2F	1	Reinstein Woods NP	Nusstein
"	2F	3	Tifft NP	Yoerg
* Vesper Sparrow	5F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann et al
"	5F	1	Sheridan	VerHague
"	6	1	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Humann, Armata, Zebehazy
"	6	3	Pomfret	Barth
"	7	1	Newstead	Mitchell
"	20	1	Williamsville	Dupont
Savannah Sparrow	6F	1	Tifft NP	Fell
Fox Sparrow	2	1	Jamestown	Leenders
"	10; 20	5; 4	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Fell; Humann
Swamp Sparrow	2	1	Jamestown Audubon	Berry
"	3	2	Pomfret	VerHague
White-crowned Sparrow	15	1	West Seneca	Yerkovich
"	27	2	Bethany	Beattie
* Rose-breasted Grosbeak	28F	1	Gerry	Stineman
"	30	1	Alfred	Peterson
"	30	1	Batavia	Beattie
<u>Yellow-headed Blackbird</u>	12	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Black et al
Rusty Blackbird	7, 16	45, 29	Barre	Morien
"	15	25	Clarence	Morgante
"	24	39	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* Orchard Oriole	30F	1	Portland	Hardenburg
* Baltimore Oriole	30F	2	Tifft NP	Rising, Meier, Rubin
Common Redpoll	2, 8, 12	5, 3, 1	Whitesville	Reichman
"	2	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
"	3	2	Woodlawn Beach SP	Yoerg
"	3; 25L	23; 1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna

<u>Species</u>	<u>April</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	4	2	Genesee County	Nichols
"	8	1	Cuba	Morris
* <u>Hoary Redpoll</u>	1F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
<u>Pine Siskin</u>	6, 9	35, 44	Gaines	Bemont
"	10-30	6-40	Orchard Park	M&W Zebehazy
"	13	36	Colden	J&K Landau
"	14	70	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	13	Wellsville	Allen
"	26	72	Fonthill, Ont.	Roy

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 149

Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the month: 53

Total for the year (to date) 2015: **202**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

**Hybrid reports:**

Am. x Eur. Wigeon	3, 12	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien et al
Herring x Glaucous Gull	25	1	Lake Erie SP	Lenz

**Origin Uncertain:**

European Goldfinch	13	1	Newstead	Stynes
--------------------	----	---	----------	--------

*(Hamburg Hawk Watch; continued from page 35)*

**Data Table:** The table represents the past 10 seasons, with this season's count data also broken down by month. Highlighted cells indicate selected high counts within this 10 year span.

Highest March total: 8,185 (2015). Highest April total: 13,717 (2014).

Highest May total: 2,591 (2014). Highest season total: 21,121 (2014).

**Acknowledgements:** This year's hawk watch is dedicated to the memory of our friend Bill Watson, who died just as this season was getting underway. As one of our original "Hawk Watch Heroes," Bill could always be counted on to cover one day each week for the full length of the season. His knowledge, dedication, and enthusiasm will be sorely missed by many. As an all-volunteer watch, Hamburg relies on the interest and commitment of members of the local birding community to provide coverage over the course of many weeks. Without them there simply would be no hawk watch. This year many of them stepped up to cover additional days left empty by Bill's passing. We gratefully acknowledge the participation this season of Tim Baird, Bruce Chilton, Tom Connare, Bob DeLeon, Donna DeLeon, Joe Fell, David Gordon, Fred Harrington,

Alec Humann, Marcie Jacklin, Fran Rew, Sharon Sisti, Holly Sweeney, and Mike Zebehazy. Many other individuals stopped by throughout the spring to witness the magic of migration along with us. Their support and enthusiasm are always a welcome addition. We also wish to thank the management of Lakeside Cemetery for accommodating us in pursuit of these bird studies on their grounds.

All data generated is uploaded to a database maintained by The Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA). The home page <http://hmana.org/> contains a wealth of raptor information. Data from over 200 North American hawkwatch sites can be accessed directly at <http://hawkcount.org/>

	<b>BV</b>	<b>TV</b>	<b>OS</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>NH</b>	<b>SS</b>	<b>CH</b>	<b>NG</b>	<b>RS</b>	<b>BW</b>	<b>RT</b>	<b>RL</b>	<b>GE</b>	<b>AK</b>	<b>ML</b>	<b>PG</b>	<b>UR</b>	<b>SK</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Mar		7661		10		18	17		75		332	6		2	2		62		8185
Apr		5881	88	37	16	219	76		79	1025	292	7	1	33	1	4	79		7838
May		762	20	15	4	78	39		6	370	59			2			21		1376
<b>2015</b>		<b>14304</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>132</b>		<b>160</b>	<b>1395</b>	<b>683</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>162</b>		<b>17399</b>
<b>2014</b>	1	<b>16043</b>	101	58	22	205	138	2	211	3604	616	25	1	41	6	4	43		<b>21121</b>
<b>2013</b>		11733	75	87	26	368	137		300	1781	944	17	3	43	5	4	159		15682
<b>2012</b>		9269	87	34	23	437	86	2	78	1986	901	13	1	39	4	5	64	1	13030
<b>2011</b>	1	12476	60	53	38	608	92	2	108	2861	923	33	6	84	7	2	85		17439
<b>2010</b>		13445	73	<b>63</b>	44	583	136		419	2812	1314	57	2	58	5	6	100		19117
<b>2009</b>	2	13174	90	54	40	410	126		177	1334	1212	18	2	73	8	6	58		16784
<b>2008</b>		9812	92	24	48	423	116	2	118	2407	1052	16	3	67	<b>10</b>	3	90		14283
<b>2007</b>		9326	110	28	39	410	119	3	234	1575	1015	21	2	51	6	6	65		13010
<b>2006</b>	1	9160	113	43	50	609	121	1	238	2258	1294	40	4	63	6	4	131		14136

**Species abbreviations:** BV Black Vulture, TV Turkey Vulture, OS Osprey, BE Bald Eagle, NH Northern Harrier, SS Sharp-shinned Hawk, CH Cooper's Hawk, NG Northern Goshawk, RS Red-shouldered Hawk, BW Broad-winged Hawk, RT Red-tailed Hawk, RL Rough-legged Hawk, GE Golden Eagle, AK American Kestrel, ML Merlin, PG Peregrine Falcon, UR Unknown Raptor, SK Swallow-tailed Kite

# Report of the 2015 Annual B.O.S. April Bird Count

Date: April 12, 2015  
 Compiler: Joseph Fell

## Weather Synopsis

The day was generally clear to partly cloudy with winds generally coming from the south and southwest. Temperatures for the day were largely cool, with a mean temperature of 47 °F (the average mean temperature for April 12 is 44 °F). Due to extensive ice cover, the ice boom remained in place on Lake Erie.

Time	Weather	Temp	Dew Pt	Pressure	Wind Dir.
12:00 am	Clear	34.0 °F	28.0 °F	30.25 in	SW
3:00 am	Clear	34.0 °F	29.8 °F	30.25 in	S
6:00 am	Clear	34.0 °F	28.8 °F	30.27 in	S
9:00am	Partly cldy	46.0 °F	34.0 °F	30.30 in	SSW
12:00 pm	Clear	55.4 °F	35.6 °F	30.27 in	WSW
3:00 pm	Partly cldy	60.1 °F	35.1 °F	30.25 in	WSW
6:00 pm	Partly cldy	60.1 °F	28.9 °F	30.21 in	SW
9:00 pm	Scattered clds	53.1 °F	26.1 °F	30.21 in	S
12:00 am	Partly cldy	48.0 °F	30.0 °F	30.19 in	SSE

## G E E S E - H E R O N S

	# birds	# sections		# birds	# sections
Snow Goose	1	1	White-winged Scoter	108	6
Cackling Goose	17	2	Long-tailed Duck	1488	17
Canada Goose	8912	28	Bufflehead	1970	26
Mute Swan	10	4	Common Goldeneye	919	13
Trumpeter Swan	1	1	Hooded Merganser	318	22
Tundra Swan	49	7	Common Merganser	428	23
Wood Duck	249	22	Red-breasted Merganser	6327	20
Gadwall	232	15	Ruddy Duck	61	5
Eurasian Wigeon	1	1	unspecified ducks	2043	4
American Wigeon	553	16	Ring-necked Pheasant	6	5
American Black Duck	72	15	Ruffed Grouse	5	4
Mallard	1041	27	Wild Turkey	141	20
Blue-winged Teal	83	12	Red-throated Loon	12	4
Northern Shoveler	108	6	Common Loon	133	21
Northern Pintail	252	7	Pied-billed Grebe	125	20
Green-winged Teal	162	11	Horned Grebe	263	19
Canvasback	192	4	Red-necked Grebe	374	7
Redhead	649	11	Double-crested Cormorant	3750	20
Ring-necked Duck	935	24	Great Blue Heron	393	23
Greater Scaup	1051	14	Great Egret	847	7
Lesser Scaup	157	14	Green Heron	1	1
unspecified scaup	86	2	Black-crowned Night-Heron	94	3

## VULTURES - CRANES

	# birds	# sections			# birds	# sections
Black Vulture	6	1	Broad-winged Hawk	*F	108	7
Turkey Vulture	1884	25	Red-tailed Hawk		316	26
Osprey	73	23	Rough-legged Hawk		9	6
Bald Eagle	46	15	unspecified buteos		7	2
Northern Harrier	27	13	Golden Eagle		1	1
Sharp-shinned Hawk	113	11	unspecified hawks		7	2
Cooper's Hawk	58	19	Virginia Rail	*F	1	1
Northern Goshawk	*	1	Common Gallinule	*F	1	1
unspecified accipiter	2	2	American Coot		56	10
Red-shouldered Hawk	25	12	Sandhill Crane		13	4

## PLOVERS - TERNS

	# birds	# sections			# birds	# sections
Killdeer	347	26	Little Gull		2	2
Greater Yellowlegs	24	5	Ring-billed Gull		18386	25
Lesser Yellowlegs	14	4	Herring Gull		1984	20
Solitary Sandpiper	*F	1	Iceland Gull		3	2
Spotted Sandpiper	*F	1	Lesser Black-backed Gull		8	2
Upland Sandpiper	*F	2	Glaucous Gull		1	1
Pectoral Sandpiper	3	1	Great Black-backed Gull		43	11
Wilson's Snipe	88	13	unspecified gulls		459	3
American Woodcock	19	10	Caspian Tern		23	7
Bonaparte's Gull	1437	19	Common Tern		16	4

## DOVES - SWALLOWS

	# birds	# sections			# birds	# sections
Rock Pigeon	970	25	Merlin		7	5
Mourning Dove	976	28	Peregrine Falcon		11	2
Eastern Screech-Owl	13	8	Eastern Phoebe		401	26
Great Horned Owl	5	3	<b>Say's Phoebe</b>	*	1	1
Barred Owl	7	5	Blue Jay		774	28
Short-eared Owl	2	2	American Crow		2464	28
<b>Rufous Hummingbird</b>	*	1	<b>Fish Crow</b>		6	2
Belted Kingfisher	93	24	Common Raven		18	9
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	2	Horned Lark		183	10
Red-bellied Woodpecker	282	26	Purple Martin		26	7
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	143	23	Tree Swallow		920	27
Downy Woodpecker	348	27	N. Rough-winged Swallow		17	6
Hairy Woodpecker	96	20	Bank Swallow	*F	14	2

Northern Flicker	490	26	Barn Swallow	53	17
Pileated Woodpecker	51	18	unspecified swallow	8	1
American Kestrel	103	22			

#### TIT S - WAX WINGS

	# birds	# sections		# birds	# sections
Black-capped Chickadee	1011	28	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher *F	3	2
Tufted Titmouse	177	21	Eastern Bluebird	169	24
Red-breasted Nuthatch	36	15	Hermit Thrush	18	8
White-breasted Nuthatch	208	27	American Robin	5356	28
Brown Creeper	96	20	Gray Catbird	2	2
Winter Wren	17	8	Northern Mockingbird	30	10
<b>House Wren *F</b>	1	1	Brown Thrasher *F	15	9
Carolina Wren	24	12	European Starling	6270	28
Golden-crowned Kinglet	330	23	American Pipit	14	4
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	66	20	Cedar Waxwing	6	4

#### WARBLERS - HOUSE SPARROWS

	# birds	# sections		# birds	# sections
Pine Warbler	5	2	Northern Cardinal	927	28
Yellow-rumped Warbler	6	4	<b>Yellow-headed Blackbird *</b>	1	1
Eastern Towhee	55	14	Red-winged Blackbird	6468	28
American Tree Sparrow	155	20	Eastern Meadowlark	110	21
Chipping Sparrow	220	22	Rusty Blackbird	458	14
Field Sparrow	72	16	Common Grackle	4410	28
Vesper Sparrow	7	5	unspecified blackbird	537	3
Savannah Sparrow	126	17	Brown-headed Cowbird	917	26
Fox Sparrow	19	11	Purple Finch	86	18
Song Sparrow	2748	28	House Finch	328	26
Swamp Sparrow	144	16	Common Redpoll	9	2
White-throated Sparrow	46	14	Pine Siskin	146	13
White-crowned Sparrow	7	5	American Goldfinch	776	27
Dark-eyed Junco	1534	28	House Sparrow	1759	27
unspecified sparrows	6	2	unspecified birds	67	3

#### NOTABLE SIGHTINGS

- 1<sup>st</sup> Record for April Count:** Rufous Hummingbird (1 - Sec 2)  
**1<sup>st</sup> Record for April Count:** Say's Phoebe (1 – Sec 21)  
**1<sup>st</sup> Record for April Count:** Yellow-headed Blackbird (1 - Sec 2)  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Record for April Count:** Cackling Goose (15 – Sec 4, 2 – Sec 9)  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Record for April Count:** Black Vulture (6 – Sec 2)

Special thanks to the section compilers and volunteers listed below. Participants were able to record a total of 155 species and 103,955 individual birds for this, the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual April Bird Count for the Buffalo Ornithological Society.

## OBSERVERS

(Section compilers are printed in **bold** face.):

Section 1: **Lynne Landon**, Nancy Smith, Julie Tedesco, Rick Thornton

Section 2: Brian Ahara, **John Black**, George Bryant, Paula Clark, Philip Downey, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Kayo Roy, Dan Salisbury, John Stevens, Rick Young

Section 3: **Willie D'Anna**, Dean DiTommaso, Kathy DiVito, Betsy Potter, Vicki Rothman, Anita Wierzba

Section 4: Brian Morse, **Brooke Morse**, James Pawlicki, Jonathan Weber

Section 5: Barbara Henderson, Morgan Jones, Celeste Morien, Thomas Morien, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Peter Yoerg

Section 6: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple, George Thomas, Maggie Thomas

Section 7: HM Bateman, Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, Joseph Fell, Jim Rozanski, **Liz Wells**

Section 8: Jennifer Barraza, Jesse Barraza, Vania Barraza, Peter BonEnfant, Lorraine Brown-Joyce, Lynda Goodridge, Ron Goodridge, **Marcie Jacklin**

Section 9: John Culhane, Jon Delong, Marilyn Feuerstein, David Friedrich, **Michael Galas**, Sylvia Galas, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Bernie Kester, Debbie Milleville, Ryan Milleville, Susan O'Donnell, Thomas O'Donnell, Keegan O'Neill, Gerry Rising, Frank Voelker

Section 10: Eli Coleman, Seaghan Coleman, Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, Gary Diamond, **David Gordon**, Karen Lee Lewis, John Welte, Martha Welte,

Section 11: Rose Antos, Valerie Antos, Chris Gainey, Fawn Hoelcle, **Alec Humann**, James Johnson, Sage Kadrow, Danielle, Pecoraro, Kevin Rybczynski, Shelley Seidman, Karen Vizzi, Ginnie Yerkovich

Section 12: Benjamin Betrus, Christopher Betrus, Parker Betrus, Joe Carlo, Mark Casell, Kurt Fox, Paul Fuhrmann, Wayne Gall, Denise Goulding, Linda Holmes, **Mike Morgante**, Mark Nichter, Sarah Piecuch

Section 13: Sarah Balduf, **Douglas Beattie**, Sharon Beattie, Sara Chase, Elaine Dart, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Paul Hess, Sheila Hess, Jodi Laird, KimMarie Markel, Jane Mason, Marc Mason, Max Mason, Michael Rickard, Abby Stone, Garry Stone, Ginny Tiede

Section 14: Ken Brandes, Gene Genco, Carolyn Goff, Tim Goff, **Fred Harrington**, Glenna Leous, Mark Leous, Karen Murphy, Rachel Ness, Sandy Radigan, Fran Rew, Dennis Russell, Sharon Sisti, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan, Wendy Zebehazy

Section 15: **Ed Ratajczak**, Sally Uzunov

Section 16: **Sue Barth**

Section 17: **Joe Mitchell**, Bert Schweigert

Section 18: **Bruce Chilton**, Doug Happ, Karen Landau, Jim Wojewodzki, Mike Zebehazy

Section 19: **Russell Allen**, Elizabeth Oakerson, Sarah Phillips

Section 20: Nan Bowser, Amy Choboy, Sylvia Clarke, Paul Farver, **Joanne Goetz**, Thomas Goetz, Carol Hardenburg, Terry Mahoney, Judy Mosher, Terence Mosher, Marilyn O'Connell, Tom O'Connell, Robert Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Keith Stock

Section 21: Ranjit Laha, Twan Leenders, Steve Maggio, Bob Petrolino, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**

Section 22: Jim Berry, Ranjit Laha, Twan Leenders, Ruth Lundin, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**

Section 23: Jim Berry, Ranjit Laha, Twan Leenders, **Bob Sundell**

Section 24: **Tim Baird**

Section 25: **Tim Baird**, Jeff Reed, James Van Scoy, Regina Van Scoy

Section 26: **Russell Allen**, Roy Morris, Denton Willett

Section 27: **Russell Allen**, Dick Baker, Roberta Baker, Alison Dickinson, Jerry Dickinson, Anna Green, Melanie Johnston, Jackie Merrick, Roy Morris, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Wilma Sanford, Joyce Weimar

Section 28: **Russell Allen**, Shawn Allen, Dan Babcock, Betsy Brooks, Amy Bush, Jeff Bush, Matt Bush, Jerry Cartledge, Mary Lou Cartledge, Betty Cheney, **Diane Converso**, Gary Cornell, Luann Cornell, Elsi Cushing, Patricia Eshelman, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Barbara Kubiak, Kathleen McDonald, Allen Ormsby, Kalyssa Ormsby, Mary Ormsby, Ann Pipal, Bob Pipal, Ken Reichman, Ernest Rositzke, Grace Rositzke, Lynn Rositzke, Joya Serio, Maureen Soule, Tarah Soule, Tim Timbrook, Katie Weiman



**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **Summer - Fall Calendar and Announcements**

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Bird Hotline: 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335

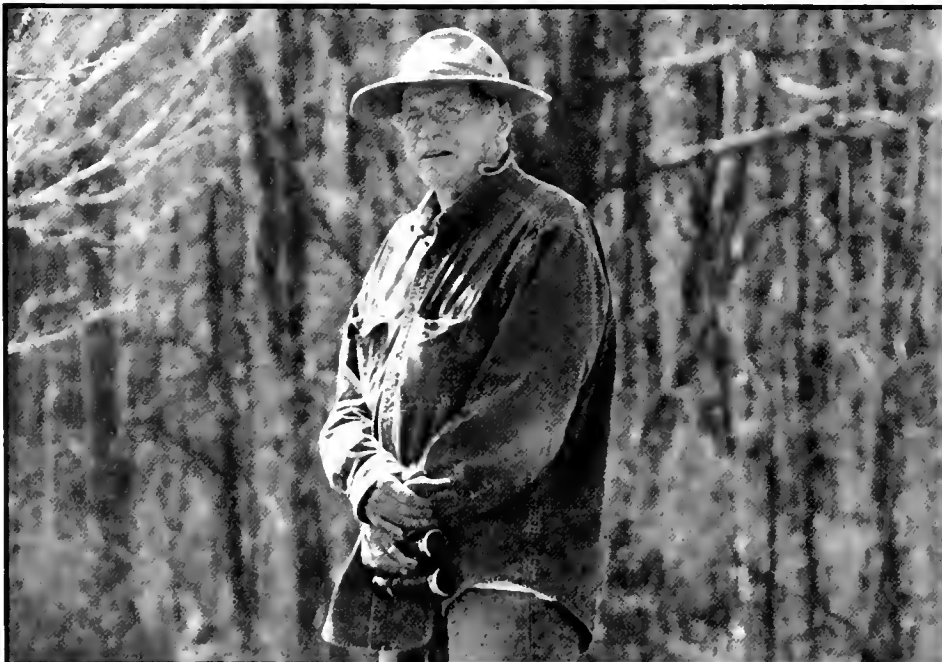
Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog: <http://bnnatureblog.com/>

### **Tifft Nature Preserve Field Trip - May 10<sup>th</sup>**

*Joe Mitchell*

The annual Buffalo Ornithological Society field trip to Tifft Nature Preserve on May 10<sup>th</sup> attracted 15 participants. Altogether, 66 bird species were tallied, 13 of which were warblers. While most of the warblers were single birds, including nice looks at a Bay-breasted and a Black-throated Blue Warbler, we saw as many as 4 Cape May Warblers throughout the day. Other highlights included an adult male Scarlet Tanager, a close approach by a Yellow-throated Vireo, both Least and Willow Flycatcher, Veery, and numerous Blue-gray Gnatcatchers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. The immature male Orchard Oriole that has been present near the parking lot and mounds area was missed in the early morning but was seen later in the day around the parking lot by a few members of the trip as they walked to their cars.

**July 6 - Oct. 9 (Weekly): Bill Watson memorial waterbird counts on the upper Niagara River and Iroquois NWR and vicinity.** Please consider participating in this effort to help count Great Egrets and other colonial nesting waterbirds on the upper Niagara River and around the Iroquois NWR complex as they



return to communal roosts starting approximately one hour prior to sunset. Contact Jim Pawlicki ([jimpawli10@gmail.com](mailto:jimpawli10@gmail.com); Niagara River) and/or Celeste Morien ([celeste.morien@gmail.com](mailto:celeste.morien@gmail.com); Iroquois NWR) to coordinate count efforts and data compilation.

**July 26: Sunday. Canada Shorebird Field Trip.** Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we are going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money, if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297).

**Aug. 30: Sunday. Canada Shorebird Field Trip.** Meet at 7:00 AM at Vermont and Busti near the Peace Bridge. We will car pool from there. Among other places, we are going to Rock Point Provincial Park, which charges \$13.00 Canadian per car for entry, so bring Canadian money, if you have it. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced drivers license. Leader: Doug Happ (649-1297).

**Oct. 21: Wednesday, 2015 Vaughan Lecture, "Birds-of-Paradise: Extreme, Bizarre, Extraordinary", 7PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Dr. Edwin Scholes, Evolutionary Biologist and Director of Research & Interpretation at the Macaulay Library at Cornell University, will be speaking about the Birds of Paradise Project. In 2012, Edwin Scholes and world-renowned wildlife photographer Tim Laman released the National Geographic book "*Birds of Paradise: Revealing the World's Most Extraordinary Birds*". This book was the culmination of a near decades long quest to find and document all 39 species of birds-of-paradise for the first time. Join Ed for an engaging presentation with fascinating stories of research and adventure paired with stunning imagery, sounds and video illuminating the secret lives of these incredible birds.



# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 6 June 2015



### THE MONTH: May

Karen Lee Lewis

*"When April steps aside for May,  
Like diamonds all the rain-drops glisten;  
Fresh violets open every day;  
To some new bird each hour we listen."*

Lucy Larcom, excerpt from  
"The Sister Months", 1881

The month of May 2015 opened her eyes and stayed warm and dry throughout her stay. The sun's shine was welcome and abundant and granted us the 5th warmest May on record. She set her record temperatures early in the month on May 8th and 9th, baking the soil of our newly tilled gardens with 88 and 89 degrees of Fahrenheit. We did not receive any verification reports regarding local birders being attired in bathing suits, however given that May is a month in which all seems possible we would not discount the possibility. After this initial, memorable hot flash we cooled rather quickly, overcompensating with two record warm minimums of 67 and 64 degrees F. More comfortable birding weather to be sure. There were a couple of temperamental frosty mornings registered in the southern tier. Given that meaningful rainfall only arrived on two occasions, our rain gear remained remarkably dry and free of mildew. The month closed with a weekend record drenching 2.44 inches of rain, more than an inch above the previous record set in 1889. Thankfully the prior thirsty conditions left our creeks and rivers more than able to handle the fresh water. There were no reports of flooded basements keeping birders out of field and forest. In addition, there was scant breeze to receive or report. When all was said and done May left us a mean temperature of 62.5 degrees, 5.7 degrees above normal. All in all there was little to dismay us in this month of May.

Betsy Potter's golden ears ushered in the first rare find of the month. She heard the distinctive "coo-cooh-cu" of a

- 47 **The Month**  
Karen Lee Lewis
- 50 **Noteworthy Records**  
Joe Mitchell & Statisticians
- 57 **BOS May Count - 2015**  
Compiler: Robert DeLeon
- 60 **Calendar**

Eurasian  
**Collared-Dove**  
on the first of  
May in the  
vicinity of the  
Wilson, NY  
harbor. Both



(Top) Black-bellied Whistling Duck photographed by Charlie F. Horton at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park on May 29<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Black-backed Woodpecker photographed by Kathleen Thomas at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebehazy

Society Officers:

President: Michael Morgante  
V. President: David Suggs  
Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
Secretary: Debbie Suggs  
Statisticians: Tim Baird  
Willie D'Anna  
Mike Morgante  
Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

Council:

2013-2015	Joseph Fell Michael Galas Lynne Landon
2014-2016	Alec Humann Donna DeLeon Debbie Suggs
2015-2017	Thomas O'Donnell Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney

Betsy and Willie D'Anna were able to successfully locate the singing dove on the top of a large picnic shelter. This bird's mournful call is thought to echo the cries of a servant girl. Willie's photos show an elegantly cool gray colored bird, a gainsboro gray, with a hint of cinnamon along the back and tail feathers. The black slash of a collar is visible both at rest and in flight. The species is thought to have been introduced into the Bahamas in the 1970s. According to Willie the bird "may have been in the area for about a year now and possibly longer." The Potter/D'Anna duo were able to relocate the bird on several occasions between May 1 - 5.

While in his vehicle

during the noon hour of May 3rd the aforementioned Willie reported hearing the repeating, about six times, nasal "cah" of a **Fish Crow** in flight, over a section of reverting woods at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park. This call was not the usual two-note version the species is better known for, but instead the less frequently delivered one-note version. It was his first Fish Crow encountered in Niagara County and marks our second record for this county. We are happy to also report that the Fish Crow appears "to be more resistant to West Nile Virus than the American Crow."

Additional notable sightings during the month include an immature male **Summer Tanager** on May 15 at Point Abino, Niagara, Ontario by Cameron Williams and Sue Merritt, and a **Harlequin Duck** on May 16th at Niagara Falls, Ont. by Michael Mulqueen.

Nearing dusk on May 17th Joe Fell found a resting **American White Pelican** (AWPE) in the middle of man-made pond in Port Maitland, Ontario. A species in decline, this bird's size dwarfs both Great Blue Heron and Canada Goose in comparison. The AWPE can weight almost 30 pounds, with an extended wingspan of more than 9 feet, and its bill can hold 3 gallons of water! This was Joe's third sighting of this species. He had previously enjoyed viewing an AWPE at Custer's Bird Sanctuary in Niagara-on-the-Lake in November of 2011, and again at Tiff Nature Preserve in June of 2012.

On May 26th local photographer Kathleen Thomas uploaded four images of a mystery bird to the Buffalo and WNY Wildlife Photography Facebook page. She had spied this bird around 1:00 PM in the pines along the boardwalk close to the Nature Center at Reinstein Woods Nature Preserve. The images clearly showed an active woodpecker with a yellow crown with a black black! Thomas requested assistance with the ID saying "This is all new to me! I was just happy to see him - I had no idea what he was." Talk about beginner's luck! Her discovery of a **Black-backed Woodpecker**



(Top to Bottom) Sandhill Crane photographed by Kayo Roy near Chippawa, Ontario on May 17<sup>th</sup>, Cattle Egret photographed by Kayo Roy at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario on May 30<sup>th</sup>, and a Eurasian Collared-Dove photographed by Willie D'Anna near Wilson Harbor on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

(BBWO), a very rare northern vagrant, set the internet on fire. She received much guidance from local birders who helped to spread news of the sighting. Unfortunately the bird was not subsequently relocated. President Mike Morgante tells us that the last sighting of a BBWO was on May 25th, 1976. Maybe we should all mark our calendars for a BBWO search party on May 25/26, 2016? Beardslee and Mitchell (1965) list eight records of Black-backed Woodpecker from 1844 to 1918 and the BOS Noteworthy Database lists 15 additional records of this northern vagrant since 1918.

Late in the month a Gold Star sighting of another peculiar looking bird brought Wilson-Tuscarora State Park back into the birding news. On May 29th observer Charlie Horton took several photographs of a duck with a red bill, a red-brown crown and nape, dark eyes set within a bright white eye ring, pink legs clearly visible. The bird was keeping to the west mouth of Twelve Mile Creek, and was visible from the beach side of WTSP. This **Black-bellied Whistling Duck (BBWD)** was very out of range! Formerly known as a Black-bellied Tree Duck, this bird will perch and nest in trees, as well as nest boxes. While this southern bird typically resides in Texas and Florida, one of its kind found its way to Western New York's Tonawanda WMA in 2010 during August 11-21. In 2011 A BBWD was noted at the Conewango Swamp WMA between August 24-26. There is also a record of a stopover visit to Stow, in 2011 between Sept. 19-25.

Our last noteworthy sighting of the month found Jan Errick without her camera. After finding a **Snowy Owl** on a rainy May 31, at the North-East corner of Beaver Island State Park, on a spit near the maintenance building, she rushed home to retrieve her lens. Thankfully the bird was still present when she returned, and she was able to obtain a few images of the bird. This helped enormously to negate any naysayers that might have suggested she may have seen an angel in disguise.

In summary, this was a May that gave us ample opportunity to add to our life lists. Whether your quarry was your favorite among the warbler family, or the opportunity to yet again welcome your resident friends the **hummingbirds** and **orioles**, or whether you appreciated the chance to give chase to a rare sight, or to camp out under your favorite giving tree at Forest Lawn Cemetery, we were given a great month. We hope you were able to find time to enjoy the frenzy of house hunting activity that brings to life Thoreau's reminder that Spring is an experience in immortality. We were also happy to learn that in the month of May cows can be milked three times a day.

Thanks to Mike Morgante, for his help in the development of this The Month: May.

Additional sources of information were Buffalo National Weather Service, Ebird online data base, ibird Pro: North America - version 7.2, Genesee Listserve, the Buffalo-Niagara Rare Bird Alert (FB), The Buffalo and WNY Wildlife Photography Page (FB), BirdTrax, Beardslee and Mitchell, 1965 - Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region, and BOS Noteworthy Database.



(Top to Bottom; all photographs by Sue Barth) Prairie Warbler at Bird Swamp in Cattaraugus County on May 24<sup>th</sup>, Blackburnian Warbler at Bird Swamp in Cattaraugus County on May 24<sup>th</sup>, Black-billed Cuckoo in South Wales on May 18<sup>th</sup>, and Orchard Oriole (2nd year male) at Tiff Nature Preserve on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* <u>Black-bell. Whistling-Duck</u>	29	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Horton
Snow Goose	9	1	Portville	Miles
"	10	1	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Barton
"	25	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Morgante
Trumpeter Swan	7	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	23	1	Batavia WWTP	Morien, Barth, Fox, Beattie
"	27	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
Tundra Swan	16	2	Findley Lake	Lenz
"	31	1	Clay Pond WMA	Stineman
American Wigeon	1	69	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Northern Shoveler	26	2	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Northern Pintail	1	348	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Green-winged Teal	1, 7	68, 38	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Canvasback	16	1	Findley Lake	Lenz
"	24	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki
Redhead	1	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	1; 4; 5	1	Batavia WWTP	Nash; Morien; Fox
"	16	1	Buckhorn Island SP	Hoover
Ring-necked Duck	1	119	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	23	1	North Harmony	Berry
Lesser Scaup	2; 30	33; 2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Pawlicki
Harlequin Duck	<u>16</u>	1	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Mulqueen
Surf Scoter	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Beattie
"	2	9	Somerset	Morgante
Long-tailed Duck	16	150	Albion	Morien
"	18	124	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna, Morien
Bufflehead	2, 5; 30	38, 36; 1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Pawlicki
Common Goldeneye	7	1	Porter	D'Anna; Kerr
Red-breasted Merganser	1	214	Dunkirk Harbor	Drucker
"	5	225	Wilson	D'Anna, Morien
"	16	170	Lakeside Beach SP	Purcell
Ruddy Duck	2; 5; 30	29; 34; 10	Batavia WWTP	Beattie; Fox; Pawlicki
Ruffed Grouse	14	1	Wainfleet, Ont.	B&J Farnan
Red-throated Loon	18	5	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna, Morien
"	24	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki
Horned Grebe	4; 14-28	17; 1	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Morien, Beattie et al
Red-necked Grebe	2	7	Somerset	Morgante
"	2; 23	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Morien, Beattie et al
"	9	1	Tillman Rd. WMA	Mitchell
Double-crest. Cormorant	1	350	Dunkirk Harbor	Drucker
"	9	450	Point Breeze	Lawrence
"	23	160	Ellery	Berry
* American White Pelican	17	1	Port Maitland, Ont.	Fell
American Bittern	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Barth
"	1; 21	4; 6	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Morien, Barth
"	25	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morgante
* Least Bittern	8F	1	Tift NP	DiTommaso

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	25, 27; 30	1, 2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Lenz
* Cattle Egret	30	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Roy
Black Vulture	22	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
"	24	3	Lewiston	Morgante
Osprey	1	6	Allegany SP	Shiperd
"	2	8	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
Bald Eagle	1	7	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Sharp-shinned Hawk	4	22	Carlton	D'Anna
"	8	27	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
Cooper's Hawk	2	14	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
Broad-winged Hawk	2, 3, 8	89, 57, 52	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
Red-tailed Hawk	3	22	Hamburg Hawk Watch	Landau
Virginia Rail	18	2	Conewango Swamp WMA	Lenz
"	30	2	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki
Sora	2	4	Jamestown Audubon	Tome
"	16	4	Tifft NP	Laughlin
"	18	2	Conewango Swamp WMA	Lenz
Sandhill Crane	1; 21; 25	1; 2; 2	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al; Morgante
"	4	3	Sinking Ponds NS	Vigyikan (EABC)
"	15	1	Jamestown Audubon	Tome, Fedak
Black-bellied Plover	23	6	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
* Semipalmated Plover	6F	1	Newstead	Mitchell
"	22	14	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Spotted Sandpiper	22	25	Batavia WWTP	Fox
Solitary Sandpiper	6	9	Sheridan	VerHague
"	7	6	Hanging Bog WMA	McNeill
"	7	6	Lewiston	Kerr
"	22L	2	Cheektowaga	Brunner
Greater Yellowlegs	28L	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* Willet	10F	1	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Yoerg
"	10F	1	Grabell Pt., Ont	Yoerg
"	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Lesser Yellowlegs	25L	1	Batavia WWTP	Morien
Upland Sandpiper	8-29	1-2	Java	Kerr et al
* Whimbrel	20F	36	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Yoerg
"	22	16	Morgan's Point, Ont.	Roy, Farnan
"	22; 28	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Harbison
"	28	9	Tonawanda WMA	Spahn, Whittum
* Ruddy Turnstone	10F	1	Hamburg Town Park	Hoecle
"	10F	1	Rock Point P.P. , Ont.	Yoerg
"	24	3	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki
"	25; 28	16; 12	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Harbison
* Sanderling	28F	2	Batavia WWTP	Harbison
"	30	4	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
* Semipalmated Sandpiper	16F	1	Point Breeze	Morien
"	26; 28	54; 62	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Harbison
"	30	52	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
* Least Sandpiper	5F	3	Chautauqua	Vanstrom
"	5F; 14	6; 106	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Lawrence, Podoliak
"	7	163	Iroquois NWR	Morien
White-rumped Sandpiper	30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Dunlin	16	3	Point Breeze	Morien
"	20	40	Windmill Pt., Ont.	Yoerg
"	22	5	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
"	23	25	Batavia WWTP	Morien, Barth
"	23	50	Long Beach, Ont.	Yoerg
* Short-billed Dowitcher	17F; 22-24	3; 1-2	Batavia WWTP	Fox; Pawlicki, Mitchell et al
"	18	1	Newstead	Mitchell
"	20	8	Conewango Swamp WMA	Shiperd
* Wilson's Phalarope	22F	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Bonaparte's Gull	1	60	Wilson	Morien
"	1	42	Dunkirk Harbor	Drucker
"	3	65	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	7	68	Fort Niagara SP	Kerr

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	14	90	Ellery	Vanstrom
Iceland Gull	1	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Drucker
"	7	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
Lesser Black-backed Gull	1	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	22	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
Glaucous Gull	22	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
Caspian Tern	1; 2	55; 50	Dunkirk Harbor	Drucker; Goetz
"	1	33	Wilson	Morien
"	23	120	Rockhouse Point, Ont.	Yoerg
* Black Tern	1F; 14; 27	11; 56; 35	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Nicosia; Beattie
"	23	2	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	24	6	Chautauqua Lake	Feinberg
"	28	1	Middlebury	Beattie
Common Tern	1; 2	65; 50	Dunkirk Harbor	Drucker; Goetz
"	9	198	Woodlawn Beach SP	Fell
"	24	150	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki
Forster's Tern	1	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki
"	5	2	North Harmony	Vanstrom
"	7	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Black, Salisbury, Fazio
"	30	2	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	1-5	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter et al
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	23	1	Iroquois NWR	Kachala
"	23	1	Pomfret	Mosher
* Black-billed Cuckoo	9F	1	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence
Snowy Owl	<u>31</u>	1	Beaver Island SP	Erick
Barred Owl	14	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
* Common Nighthawk	16F	1	Cambria	Morse
"	16F, 23	10, 29	Celeron	Simmons
Eastern Whip-poor-will	23	4	Wainfleet, Ont.	Yoerg
Chimney Swift	23	50	Batavia WWTP	Morien, Barth, Beattie
"	31	170	Goat Island	Pawlicki
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	2	1	Alfred	Peterson
Red-headed Woodpecker	6, 9; 24	2, 3; 2	Point Gratiot	Goetz; Salim
"	10; 16	2	Lake Erie SP	VerHague; Pawlicki
"	16	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Purcell
"	19	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	22	2	Point Abino, Ont.	Humann
"	26	2	Evangola SP	Tedesco
* <u>Black-backed Woodpecker</u>	26	1	Reinstein Woods NP	Thomas
Merlin	3	1	Tifft NP	Seidman
"	16	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	16; 30	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Morien; Bemont
"	18, 26	2, 1	Celeron	Simmons
Peregrine Falcon	2	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Barth
"	7	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Walters
"	7	1	Goat Island	Kerr; Walters
"	11	1	Lockport	Perry
"	24	1	Niagara Falls	Morgante
"	29	2	Grand Island	Humann
* Olive-sided Flycatcher	<u>8F</u> ; 16; 26	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann; Sweeney; Humann
"	31	1	Allegany SP	Morien, Light; Rose-Burney
* Eastern Wood-Pewee	5F	1	Iroquois NWR	Sweeney
"	5F	1	Newstead	Morien
* Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	9F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
"	13, 25	1, 2	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki, Salembier et al
"	16; 18; 26	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Purcell; Morien; Bemont
"	19	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Potter, D'Anna
"	23	1	Knox Farm SP	Tedesco
* Acadian Flycatcher	10F	1	Middlebury	Beattie
"	25	3	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* Alder Flycatcher	18	7	Conewango WMA	Lenz
"	18; 26	5	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna, Potter; Bemont
* Willow Flycatcher	9F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Salembier
"	9F	1	Tifft NP	Barth

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	9F	1	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence
Least Flycatcher	2	1	Jamestown Audubon	Weyandt
"	2	1	Jamestown	Leenders
"	3	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Harbison
* Great Crested Flycatcher	1F	1	Forestville	VerHague
"	8	7	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr
"	8	2	Point Gratiot	Goetz
Eastern Kingbird	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Barth
"	27	10	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* Yellow-throated Vireo	4F	3	Batavia	Beattie
"	4F	2	Pomfret	Mosher
"	7; 7; 12	1; 2; 4	Iroquois NWR	Beattie; Morin; Rising, Galas
* Philadelphia Vireo	4F	1	Four Mile Creek SP	Adams
"	8	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann et al
"	12	3	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
* Red-eyed Vireo	5F	2	Newstead	Morien
"	5F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Kester
<u>Fish Crow</u>	3	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
Common Raven	3	2	Mud Lake, Ont.	Robins
"	6	2	Port Colborne, Ont.	Staton
Bank Swallow	9	125	Woodlawn Beach SP	Fell
Cliff Swallow	1	20	Tonawanda	Barton
"	18	25	Allegany	Lenz
"	31	30	Goat Island	Pawlicki
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	23L	1	Iroquois NWR	Kachala
* Veery	2F	1	Portland	VerHague
* Gray-cheeked Thrush	8F	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter, Morien, Adams
"	25	3	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki, Salembier
* Swainson's Thrush	4F; 16	1; 9	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Mitchell et al; Humann
"	31	2	Allegany SP	Morien
Hermit Thrush	24	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
American Pipit	2	30	Lyndonville	Morgante
"	9	7	Chautauqua	Vanstrom
* Ovenbird	1F	1	Harmony	Berry
Louisiana Waterthrush	6	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Barth, Thomas, Vizzi
* Golden-winged Warbler	7F	1	Lake Erie SP	Hardenburg
"	8	1	Tifft NP	Bacher
"	9	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
* Blue-winged Warbler	3F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	3F	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
* "Brewster's Warbler"	8	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
* Prothonotary Warbler	8F-25	1-3	Tonawanda WMA	Kerr et al
* Tennessee Warbler	3F	1	Batavia	Beattie
"	5	1	Newstead	Morien
"	5	2	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna et al
* Orange-crowned Warbler	3F, 4	1	Wilson	Potter
"	4	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Mitchell
"	4	1	Amherst	Salembier
Nashville Warbler	30	2	Napoli	D'Anna et al
* Connecticut Warbler	23F	1	Canadaway Creek WMA	VerHague
"	25	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Salembier, Pawlicki
* Mourning Warbler	10F	1	Bethany	Beattie
"	10F	1	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Barton
"	10F	1	Carlton Hill WMA	Beattie
Common Yellowthroat	2	1	Portland	VerHague
"	2	1	Iroquois NWR	Kerr; Benedetti
* Hooded Warbler	5F	2	Newstead	Morien
"	5F	1	Iroquois NWR	Kester
"	5F	2	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr
"	6, 8	1	Fonthill, Ont.	Robins
* American Redstart	3F	1	Allegany SP	Rycenga
"	3F	1	Colden	Dermen
* Cape May Warbler	3F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Rose-Burney
"	3F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	13	14	North Harmony	Vanstrom
"	22L	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Seidman
* Cerulean Warbler	5F	2	Iroquois NWR	Sweeney
"	9; 21	1; 7	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence; Morien, Barth
"	16	1	Alexander	Beattie
* Northern Parula	2F	1	Allegany SP	Rycenga, Macres
"	2F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Barth et al
* Magnolia Warbler	2F	1	Jamestown Audubon	Weyandt
"	3	1	West Seneca	Yerkovich
* Bay-breasted Warbler	5F; 7	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Kester; Salembier et al
"	7	1	Amherst	Morse
* Blackburnian Warbler	1F	1	Pomfret	Moeller
"	2	2	Allegany SP	Rycenga, Macres
* Chestnut-sided Warbler	4F	1	Point Gratiot	VerHague, Barth
"	4F	1	Amherst SP	Sweeney
"	4F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann et al
"	4F	1	Grand Island	Thomas
"	4F	1	Wilson	Potter
* Blackpoll Warbler	8F	2	Iroquois NWR	Kerr
"	9	1	Golden Hill SP	Wojewodzki
"	9	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann, Coleman, Fell
* Black-throated Blue Warbler	3F	1	Four Mile Creek SP	D'Anna
"	3F	1	Jamestown	Leenders, Kruitbosch
"	3F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann et al
"	3F	1	Colden	Dermen
"	3F	1	Amherst SP	Yoerg
Palm Warbler	22L	1	Bethany	Beattie
* Yellow-throated Warbler	7F	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Black, Fazio, Salisbury
* Prairie Warbler	6F	1	Ashford	J Rosenberg
"	6F	1	Portland	Hardenburg
"	7	1	Fonthill, Ont.	Salisbury, Fazio
"	12-14	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Stoltz
"	16	1	Point Gratiot	Pawlicki
"	29	3	Yorkshire	Rising, Hollister, Meier, Rubin
* Canada Warbler	8F	1	Andover	Peterson
"	8F	1	Wilson	Potter, D'Anna
"	9	1	Golden Hill SP	Wojewodzki; Frauen
* Wilson's Warbler	8F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann et al
"	8F	1	Wilson	Frauen
"	29	1	Allegany SP	Morin, Light
American Tree Sparrow	3L	4	Bethany	Beattie
Clay-colored Sparrow	28	1	Machias	Morien
Vesper Sparrow	5	1	Middlebury	Beattie
"	29	1	Yorkshire	Rising, Hollister, Meier, Rubin
"	30	1	Barre	Lenz
* Grasshopper Sparrow	8F, 9	1, 2	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
"	9	1	Tillman WMA	Mitchell
"	11, 26	1	Middlebury	Beattie
Fox Sparrow	1	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
"	15L	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
* Lincoln's Sparrow	4F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Mitchell, Pawlicki
"	5, 6	1	Point Gratiot	Goetz
"	24L	1	Tifft NP	Pawlicki
White-throated Sparrow	25	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	30	2	Allenberg Bog	D'Anna et al
White-crowned Sparrow	24L	1	Batavia WWTP	Sucy
* Summer Tanager	15	1	Point Abino, Ont.	Williams, Merritt
* Scarlet Tanager	4F	1	Jamestown	Leenders, Kruitbosch
"	5	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann et al
"	5	1	Tifft NP	Barth
* Indigo Bunting	3F, 4	1	Amherst	Salembier
"	4	2	Jamestown	Leenders, Kruitbosch
"	4	1	Colden	Dermen
* Bobolink	3F	1	Dunkirk Airport	Stineman

<u>Species</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	3F	1	Bethany	Beattie
Orchard Oriole	5	1	Newstead	Morien
"	6	1	Fredonia	Goetz
"	6	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Gainey
"	16	1	S. Dayton	J Landau
"	23	4	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
"	24	2	Bird Swamp	D'Anna, Potter
Baltimore Oriole	1	1	Portland	Hardenburg
Pine Siskin	1; 4, 25	30; 78, 60	Wilson	Morien; D'Anna, Potter
"	4	63	Carlton	D'Anna
"	4	30	Lakeside Beach SP	Yoerg
"	5	30	Fredonia	Goetz
"	6, 24	48, 1	Forestville	VerHague
"	6, 25	46, 2	Jamestown	Berry
"	6	24	Grand Island	Humann

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 203

Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the month: 65

Total for the year (to date) 2015: **268**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

(Clockwise from upper left) Snowy Owl photographed by Jan Errick at Beaver Island State Park on May 31<sup>st</sup>, Short-billed Dowitcher photographed by Sue Barth at Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Whimbrel photographed by Kayo Roy along the Lake Erie shoreline at the foot of Morgan's Point Road, Wainfleet, Ontario on May 22<sup>nd</sup>.



# Report of the 2015 Annual B.O.S. May Bird Count

Date: May 17, 2015

Compiler: Robert L. DeLeon

## Weather Synopsis

### Greater Buffalo International Airport

Sunrise: 5:50 AM EDT

Sunset: 8:33 PM EDT

Time	Temp	Dew Pt	Humid	Pressure	Vis	Wind Dir	Wind Speed	Conditions
1 AM	61.0 °F	57.0 °F	87%	30.15 in	7.0 mi	Calm	Calm	Mostly Cloudy
4 AM	60.1 °F	55.0 °F	83%	30.15 in	10.0 mi	ENE	5.8 mph	Overcast
7 AM	62.1 °F	57.0 °F	84%	30.18 in	8.0 mi	ENE	3.5 mph	Overcast
10 AM	70.0 °F	57.9 °F	65%	30.18 in	10.0 mi	East	4.6 mph	Mostly Cloudy
1 PM	78.1 °F	59.0 °F	52%	30.16 in	10.0 mi	North	-	Scattered Clouds
4 PM	81.0 °F	59.0 °F	47%	30.11 in	10.0 mi	Calm	Calm	Partly Cloudy
7 PM	80.1 °F	59.0 °F	48%	30.08 in	10.0 mi	NNE	6.9 mph	Mostly Cloudy
10 PM	72.0 °F	57.0 °F	59%	30.09 in	10.0 mi	ESE	5.8 mph	Scattered Clouds

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Bold face names indicate species for which acceptable written verification forms were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the spring migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses.

G e e s e – H e r o n s			
Canada Goose	3522		
Mute Swan	16		
Trumpeter Swan	1 (23)		
Wood Duck	185		
Gadwall	6 (7,10,13)		
American Wigeon	2 (10)		
American Black Duck	3 (9,13)		
Mallard	488		
Blue-winged Teal	8 (10,19,21)		
Northern Shoveler	1 (7)		
Redhead	11 (4,7,17)		
Ring-necked Duck	3 (15,25)		
Greater Scaup	L 1 (3)		
Lesser Scaup	3 (10,13)		
White-winged Scoter	L 7 (4)		
Long-tailed Duck	926		
Bufflehead	10		
Common Goldeneye	L 4 (1,4,16)		
Hooded Merganser	38		
Common Merganser	47		
Red-breasted Merganser	1294		
Ruddy Duck	17 (1,13,17)		
Unspecified waterfowl	195		
Ring-necked Pheasant	3 (19,21,27)		
Ruffed Grouse	18		
Wild Turkey	73		
Red-throated Loon	195 (3,4)		
Common Loon	114		
Pied-billed Grebe	15		
Horned Grebe	2 (13,19)		
<b>American White Pelican</b>	* 1 (7)		
Double-crested Cormorant	2916		
American Bittern	2 (10)		
Great Blue Heron	475		
Great Egret	109		
Green Heron	56		
Black-crowned Night-Heron	118		
V u l t u r e s - C r a n e s			
Turkey Vulture	574		
Osprey	38		
Bald Eagle	35	56	
American Kestrel	59		
Merlin	2 (7,13)		
Peregrine Falcon	19 (3,11)		

Northern Harrier	9		Unspecified hawks	3			
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11		Virginia Rail	3	(13,23)		
Cooper's Hawk	13		Sora	5			
Red-shouldered Hawk	10		Common Gallinule	3	(1,7,10)		
Broad-winged Hawk	13		American Coot	3	(9,10)		
Red-tailed Hawk	141		Sandhill Crane	2	(2,6)		
<b>Plovers – Terns</b>							
Black-bellied Plover	*F	1	(21)	Wilson’s Snipe	5		
Semipalmated Plover		21		American Woodcock	11		
Killdeer		378		Unspecified shorebirds	2		
Greater Yellowlegs		7		Bonaparte’s Gull	270		
Lesser Yellowlegs		8	(6,10,20)	Ring-billed Gull	5629		
Solitary Sandpiper		12		Herring Gull	610		
Spotted Sandpiper		155		Lesser Black-backed Gull	2	(4)	
Upland Sandpiper		3	(10,15)	Great Black-backed Gull	12		
Ruddy Turnstone		2	(5,7)	Unspecified gulls	422		
Semipalmated Sandpiper		12	(6,7,18)	Caspian Tern	226		
Least Sandpiper		131		Common Tern	574		
White-rumped Sandpiper		1	(6)	Forster’s Tern	3	(6)	
Pectoral Sandpiper		1	(1)	Black Tern	29	(10,17)	
Dunlin		114					
<b>Pigeons - Swallows</b>							
Rock Pigeon		781		Alder Flycatcher	*F	63	
Mourning Dove		1013		Willow Flycatcher		153	
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	*F	17		Least Flycatcher		126	
Black-billed Cuckoo		31		Unspecified Empidonax		9	
Eastern Screech-Owl		11	(4,9,23)	Eastern Phoebe		217	
Great Horned Owl		11		Great Crested Flycatcher		261	
Barred Owl		15		Eastern Kingbird		355	
Common Nighthawk		15	(21)	White-eyed Vireo	*	1	(13)
Eastern Whip-poor-will		7	(7)	Yellow-throated Vireo		24	
Chimney Swift		193		Blue-headed Vireo		26	
Ruby-throated Hummingbird		175		Warbling Vireo		429	
Belted Kingfisher		54		Philadelphia Vireo		6	
Red-headed Woodpecker		17		Red-eyed Vireo		489	
Red-bellied Woodpecker		258		Blue Jay		944	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker		78		American Crow		1360	
Downy Woodpecker		173		Common Raven		35	
Hairy Woodpecker		87		Horned Lark		61	
Northern Flicker		259		Purple Martin		534	
Pileated Woodpecker		33		Tree Swallow		1252	
Olive-sided Flycatcher		1	(5)	Bank Swallow		334	
Eastern Wood Pewee		134		N. Rough-winged Swallow		167	
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher		2	(20)	Cliff Swallow		190	
Acadian Flycatcher		9		Barn Swallow		1379	
<b>Tits - Waxwings</b>							
Black-capped Chickadee		575		Eastern Bluebird		218	
Tufted Titmouse		127		Veery		121	
Red-breasted Nuthatch		22		Swainson’s Thrush		23	
White-breasted Nuthatch		133		Hermit Thrush		18	
Brown Creeper		9		Wood Thrush		311	
Carolina Wren		19		American Robin		4484	
House Wren		334		Gray Catbird		1500	
Winter Wren		9		Northern Mockingbird		40	
Marsh Wren		9		Brown Thrasher		91	
Golden-crowned Kinglet		8		European Starling		4421	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet		1	(13)	American Pipit	L	8	(4,5,15)

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	52	Cedar Waxwing	135
<b>Warblers</b>			
Blue-winged Warbler	162	Bay-breasted Warbler	63
Tennessee Warbler	166	Blackpoll Warbler	119
Orange-crowned Warbler	1 (4)	Cerulean Warbler	5
Nashville Warbler	45	Black-and-white Warbler	13
Northern Parula	32	American Redstart	350
Yellow Warbler	2167	Prothonotary Warbler	1 (10)
Chestnut-sided Warbler	283	Ovenbird	252
Magnolia Warbler	145	Northern Waterthrush	26
Cape May Warbler	15	Louisiana Waterthrush	7
Black-throated Blue Warbler	39	Mourning Warbler	42
Yellow-rumped Warbler	201	Common Yellowthroat	1241
Black-throated Green Warbler	77	Hooded Warbler	163
Blackburnian Warbler	78	Wilson's Warbler	35
Pine Warbler	20	Canada Warbler	30
Prairie Warbler	13	.....Unspecified warblers	17
Palm Warbler	31		
<b>Tanagers -- House Sparrows</b>			
Scarlet Tanager	110	Indigo Bunting	180
Eastern Towhee	236	Bobolink	728
Chipping Sparrow	712	Northern Cardinal	695
Clay-colored Sparrow	*F 7 (4,18,20)	Red-winged Blackbird	5207
Field Sparrow	177	Eastern Meadowlark	145
Vesper Sparrow	3 (5,7,8)	Rusty Blackbird	L 4 (4,22,28)
Savannah Sparrow	269	Common Grackle	2317
Song Sparrow	1391	Brown-headed Cowbird	708
Lincoln's Sparrow	4	Orchard Oriole	16
Swamp Sparrow	104	Baltimore Oriole	978
White-throated Sparrow	41	Purple Finch	89
White-crowned Sparrow	147	House Finch	186
Unspecified sparrows	50	Pine Siskin	74
Dark-eyed Junco	112	American Goldfinch	1358
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	374	House Sparrow	1256

SUMMARY INFORMATION: Total species observed: 207 (above average)  
Total individual birds observed: 68,446 (well below average)  
Number of observers: 218

COMMENTS: The 2015 May count was good with a number of species observed that were missed last year and a large number of species observed in record numbers in spite of the fact that the total number of individuals observed continued its downward trend.

#### HIGHEST COUNTS FOR 2015 (COMPARED TO 1965-2015)

The following species recorded the highest count in 2015: Red-throated Loon (195), Common Loon (114), Peregrine Falcon (19), Forster's Tern (3), Eastern Screech Owl (11), Acadian Flycatcher (9), Alder Flycatcher (63), Willow Flycatcher (153), Great Crested Flycatcher (261), Common Raven (35), Gray Catbird (1500), Ovenbird (252), Common Yellowthroat (1241), Hooded Warbler (163), Clay-colored Sparrow (7).

#### HIGH COUNTS FOR 2015 (COMPARED TO 1965-2015)

The following species recorded a high count in 2015 which was 2 standard deviations above their average count for 1965-2015: Long-tailed Duck (926), Red-breasted Merganser (1294), Great Egret (109), Osprey (38), Bald Eagle (35), Caspian Tern (226), Yellow-billed Cuckoo (17), Red-bellied Woodpecker (258), Warbling Vireo (429), Northern Parula (32), Pine Warbler (20), Blackpoll Warbler (119).

#### LOW COUNTS FOR 2015 (COMPARED TO 1965-2015)

The following species recorded a low count in 2015 which was 2 standard deviations below their average count for 1965-2015: None.

## LOWEST COUNTS FOR 2015 (COMPARED TO 1965-2015)

The following species recorded the lowest count in 2015: Ring-necked Pheasant (3), Barn Swallow (1379).

## NOTABLE SPECIES MISSING FROM THE COUNT FOR 2015

The following species were missing from the 2015 count: Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Golden-winged Warbler, Grasshopper Sparrow.

## NOTABLE RARE SIGHTINGS FOR 2015

Lesser Black-backed Gull (2), Clay-colored Sparrow (7), Trumpeter Swan (1), American White Pelican (1).

## OBSERVERS (Section compilers are printed in **bold face**.):

**Section 1:** Jenn Barraza, Jesse Barraza, Vania Barraza, **Lynne Landon**, Bev Seyler

**Section 2:** **John Black**, Philip Downey, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Treavor Jones, Ashley Northcotte, Kayo Roy, Dan Salisbury, Katherine Stoltz

**Section 3:** Willie D'Anna, Gary Diamond, **David Gordon**, Barbra Henderson, David Muller, Betsy Potter, Anita Wierzber, Peter Yoerg

**Section 4:** Dean Di Tomasso, Neal Gordon, Andy Guthrie, Karen Lee Lewis, Glenn T. Martin, Brian Morse, Brooke Morse, Jim Pawlicki, **Holly Sweeney**, Jonathan Weber, Jeffrey Welton, Jocelyn Welton

**Section 5:** Morgan Jones, Celeste Morien, Thomas Morien, Margaret Partridge, James Rozanski, **Elizabeth Wells**

**Section 6:** **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple, George Thomas, Maggie Thomas

**Section 7:** HM Bateman, Blayne Farnan, Jean Farnan, **Joseph Fell**

**Section 8:** Peter BonEnfant, Lorraine Brown-Joyce, Lynda Goodridge, Ron Goodridge, Jim Grassie, **Marcie Jacklin**, Bob Manson, Joseph Mwangi, Dawn Pierrynowski, Joyce Sankey, Tim Seburn

**Section 9:** Ann Enger, Marilyn Feuerstein, Dave Friedrich, **Mike Galas**, Ron Hacker, Sue Hacker, Christopher Hollister, Iris Izydorczak, Mark Izydorczak, Debra Milleville, Gerry Rising

**Section 10:** Donna V. DeLeon, **Robert L. DeLeon**

**Section 11:** Alec Humann, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**, Joseph Sullivan

**Section 12:** Mark Cassel, Joe Carlo, Paul Fuhrmann, Linda Holmes, **Mike Morgante**, Christina Rockwell

**Section 13:** Sarah Balduf, **Doug Beattie**, Sara Chase, Julia Garver, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Bill Kistner, Debbie Laird, Jodi Laird, KimMarie Markel, Jane Mason, Marc Mason, Max Mason, Jim Ochterski, Suzie Salo, Abby Stone, Gary Stone, Ginny Tiede, John Volpe, Mary Volpe

**Section 14:** Ken Brandes, Caroline Goff, Ken Goff, **Fred Harrington**, Glena Leous, Mark Leous, Sandy Radigan, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan

**Section 15:** Eli Coleman, **Seaghan Coleman**, Edward Ratajczak, Sally Uzunov

**Section 16:** **Thomas Connare**, George Robbins

**Section 17:** **Joe Mitchell**, Bert Schweigert

**Section 18:** **Bruce Chilton**, Doug Happ, Jim Landau, Karen Landau

**Section 19:** Valentine Byler, Carolyn Closser, Jo Ellwood, Bernard Farcher, James Fegley, Vicki Grant, Gerald Mc Glynn, Floyd Merriam, Dan Merritt, Meg Merritt, Daniel Miller, Eli Miller, Rudy Miller, Virginia Norton, Theresa Rork, Carol Stonemetz, Jean Wilson, **Larry Wilson**, Susan Wirth

**Section 20:** Paul Baglia, Nan Bowser, Chris Budniewski, Ray Budniewski, Paul Farver, **Joanne Goetz**, Tom Goetz, Carol Hardenburg, Terence Mahoney, Judy Mosher, Terry Mosher, Bob Peterson, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Jeannie Smith, Kieth Stock, Gale VerHague

**Section 21:** Ranjit Laha, Steve Maggio, Pat Morton, Bill Seleen, Linda Seleen, Tom Simmons, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 22:** Jim Berry, Twan Leenders, Linda O'Brien, **Bob Sundell**, Kirk Vanstrom

**Section 23:** Jim Berry, Mary Berry, Ruth Lundin, **Bob Sundell**

**Section 24:** **Tim Baird**

**Section 25:** **Tim Baird**, Lisa Chapman, Michael DeSha, Mike Ermer, Jim Pomeroy, Jeff Reed

**Section 26:** **Russell Allen**, Noah McNeil, Karl Schmidt, Denton Willett

**Section 27:** **Russell Allen**, Dick Baker, Roberta Baker, Alison Dickinson, Jerry Dickinson, Jackie Merrick, Linda Pettibone, Dan Ramsey, Evelyn Ramsey, Wilma Sanford, Joyce Weimer

**Section 28:** Dan Babcock, Sue Beckhorn, Betsy Brooks, Jerry Cartledge, Mary-Lou Cartledge, Betty Chaney, **Diane Converso**, Pat Erselman, Peter Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Kathleen Mac Donald, Eric Mc Enroe, Mary Ormsby, Ralph Paterson, Ann Pipal, Robert Pipal, Ken Reichman, Earnest Rositzke, Grace Rositzke, Lynn Rositzke, Joya Serio, Maureen Souls, Terah Soule, Katie Weiman



**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## Summer - Fall Calendar and Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Bird Hotline: 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335

Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog: <http://bnnatureblog.com/>

**July 6 - Oct. 9 (Weekly):** Bill Watson memorial waterbird counts on the upper Niagara River and Iroquois NWR and vicinity. Please consider participating in this effort to help count Great Egrets and other colonial nesting waterbirds on the upper Niagara River and around the Iroquois NWR complex as they return to communal roosts starting approximately one hour prior to sunset. Contact Jim Pawlicki ([jimpawli10@gmail.com](mailto:jimpawli10@gmail.com); Niagara River) and/or Celeste Morien ([celeste.morien@gmail.com](mailto:celeste.morien@gmail.com); Iroquois NWR) to coordinate count efforts and data compilation.

**Sept. 5: Saturday. At 6:45 PM** the Buffalo Ornithological Society and the New York State Purple Martin Project are leading a Purple Martin Fall Roost Site Field Trip. The event is at Buckhorn Island State Park on Grand Island, New York. We will meet at the large parking lot on East-West Park Road. Directions: For people going to the September Purple Martin trip from points south....Take the Long Road exit on the northbound 190. This exit will take you to Grand Island Blvd. Turn left and drive 100 feet or so to the 4-way stop. This is the intersection of Long Road and Grand Island Boulevard. At this 4-way stop, turn right onto Long Rd. Take Long Rd all the way to Baseline and turn left onto Baseline. Take Baseline to East River Road and turn left. Find the large parking lot on the north side of East River Road. A non-strenuous short walk is required. Reminder: There are no restroom facilities available at Buckhorn Island State Park. This link provides a map of the park showing the

reed bed we will be viewing in the Niagara River:<http://nysparks.com/parks/attachments/BuckhornIslandBuckhornIslandBCAMap.pdf> Contact information is as follows: Celeste Morien (585-721-8202) or [celeste.morien@gmail.com](mailto:celeste.morien@gmail.com) or [nyspurplemartins@gmail.com](mailto:nyspurplemartins@gmail.com)

**Sept. 9: Wednesday BOS Meeting in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science at 7:00 PM.** Members Night. Bring along your favorite stories and photo files to share with other members. (Note the new room location at the Museum for our meetings).

**Oct. 10: Saturday NOT Sunday! BOS Annual October Count.** The compiler is Marcie Jacklin at [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577. BOS members are encouraged to participate.

**Oct. 21: Wednesday, 2015 Vaughan Lecture, "Birds-of-Paradise: Extreme, Bizarre, Extraordinary", 7PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Dr. Edwin Scholes, Evolutionary Biologist and Director of Research & Interpretation at the Macaulay Library at Cornell University, will be speaking about the Birds of Paradise Project. In 2012, Edwin Scholes and world-renowned wildlife photographer Tim Laman released the National Geographic book "*Birds of Paradise: Revealing the World's Most Extraordinary Birds*". This book was the culmination of a near decades long quest to find and document all 39 species of birds-of-paradise for the first time. Join Ed for an engaging presentation with fascinating stories of research and adventure paired with stunning imagery, sounds and video illuminating the secret lives of these incredible birds.



Acadian Flycatcher  
photographed by Sue Barth at  
Chestnut Ridge Park on May 30<sup>th</sup>.



# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 7 July 2015

### THE MONTH: June

Mike DeSha

According to David Thomas of the National Weather Service, this month provided "a cool and very wet start to summer." The month exhibited continued rounds of showers and thunderstorms spilling over from record soaking rainfall of late May. Over half the days had measurable rainfall and the rainfall was spread evenly throughout the month. Precipitation for the month totaled 5.03 inches at the Buffalo airport, 1.37 inches above the average of 3.66 inches. Of the past six Junes, three have had over five inches of rainfall. There was one record rainfall event. The Weather Service recorded 1.72 inches of rainfall at the airport on the 27<sup>th</sup>, breaking the old record of 1.29 inches set in 2006. Four days received a half inch or more.

The average temperature for the month was 65.5°F, 0.7°F below normal.

The warmest temperature was 84°F on the 12<sup>th</sup> and there were only five days in which temperatures climbed into the eighties, marking the occurrence of the seventh fewest number of days of such temperatures since 1943, when records were moved to the airport. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, the temperature reached a high of only 61.0°F, which was the coolest temperature maximum for the date, breaking a record of 63°F set in 2004. The temperature of Lake Erie at Buffalo ranged from 55°F at the start of the month to 65°F June 26<sup>th</sup>.

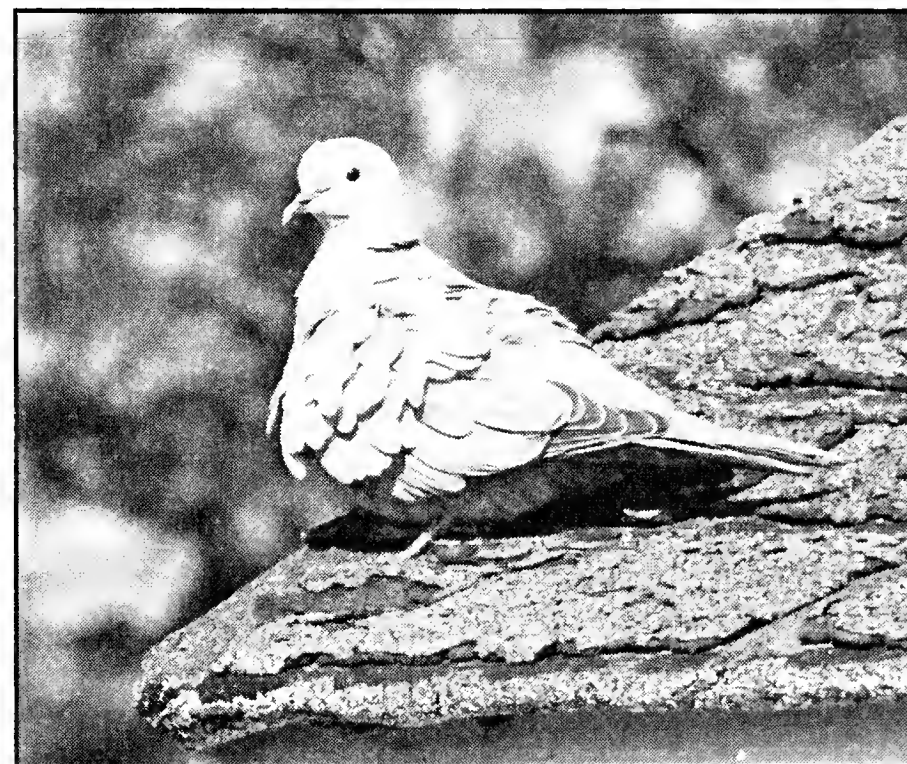
As one might suspect in dealing with such weather, some waterfowl species were among the notable records for June. Brett Ewald, reacting to a Facebook report, identification and photographs by Horton, easily re-found and reported a Black-bellied Whistling Duck. Horton had found the bird on May 29<sup>th</sup> at the West Branch of Twelve Mile Creek in the Town of Wilson, where it was seen many times thereafter during June. Sightings of this species, which were non-existent several years ago, are now being recorded almost annually. D'Anna also reported seeing a single Snow Goose at Iroquois NWR on the 4<sup>th</sup>. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, acting

on information provided by a tourist, Pawlicki and Barton located and photographed a

- 61 The Month  
Mike DeSha
- 63 Noteworthy Records  
Joe Mitchell & Statisticians
- 66 Calendar



Harlequin Duck at Niagara Falls. Highcock and Hampson saw a Red-throated Loon on the 15<sup>th</sup> in St. Catharines, Ont.



(Top) Eurasian Collared-Dove photographed by Willie D'Anna at Wilson on June 4<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Black-bellied Whistling Duck photographed by Willie D'Anna at Wilson on June 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebehazy

**Society Officers:**

President: Michael Morgante  
V. President: David Suggs  
Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
Secretary: Debbie Suggs  
Statisticians: Tim Baird  
Willie D'Anna  
Mike Morgante  
Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

**Council:**

2013-2015	Joseph Fell Michael Galas Lynne Landon
2014-2016	Alec Humann Donna DeLeon Debbie Suggs
2015-2017	Thomas O'Donnell Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney

As they were leaving a parking lot in Niagara Falls, Ontario on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Snaith and Duncan saw an American White Pelican. Another four individuals of this species were reported six days later on the 14<sup>th</sup> by Mance-Coniglio in the Town of Olcott and by Voight in the Town of Porter; likely the same birds. This count ties the previous high count record for this species.

Pawlicki's find of an Iceland Gull on June 5<sup>th</sup> and Guthrie's sighting of a Glaucous Gull on June 6<sup>th</sup>, both in the Town of Wilson, provided the most notable gull records for the month.

As many as two Eurasian Collared-Doves, a species that may be becoming more regular as it

expands its range northward, were seen and photographed by D'Anna throughout the month in the Town of Wilson.

The irruption of numerous Snowy Owls into our area the last two winters was notable, but the excitement of seeing one lingering on June 4<sup>th</sup> in Buffalo Harbor provided such a thrill for Walters that I want to share with you her exuberance in her own words: "I was checking Common Tern colonies when I spotted a Snowy Owl on the Short Breakwall. It subsequently flew to the top of the marker on the end cell where I was able to snap several photos. The terns were diving at the owl, eventually driving it off the end cell and out low over the water. At least half the colony aggressively pursued the owl until it landed on the west side of Donnelly's Wall. It was such a bizarre feeling to see this owl in June, and to witness the terns driving it off. What a day."

*(The Month continued on page 65)*



(Top to Bottom) Snowy Owl photographed by Walters at Buffalo on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Snow Goose photographed by Willie D'Anna at Iroquois NWR on June 4<sup>th</sup>, Harlequin Duck photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Goat Island on June 30<sup>th</sup>, White Pelican photographed by Voight at Ransomville on June 16<sup>th</sup>, and Iceland Gull photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Wilson on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Black-bell. Whistling-Duck</u>	2-29	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter et al
Snow Goose	<u>4</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna
* Brant	11	1	Tonawanda	George, Kundl
Mute Swan	3	8	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Humann
Wood Duck	19	46	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Gadwall	3; 13	5; 3	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Fox
American Wigeon	17	1	Newstead	Morien
"	22	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Northern Shoveler	3; 13	1; 2	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Fox
Green-winged Teal	3; 13	1	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Fox
Greater Scaup	30	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
Lesser Scaup	13	1	Batavia WWTP	Fox
"	30	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki
Harlequin Duck	<u>30</u>	1	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki; Barton
White-winged Scoter	30	2	Niagara Falls	Pawlicki; Barton
Red-breasted Merganser	26; 29	4; 9	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki; VerHague
Ruddy Duck	2; 13	7; 5	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Red-throated Loon	<u>15</u>	1	St. Catharines, ON	Highcock, Hampson
Common Loon	1	1	Allegany SP	Lenz
"	10	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
"	17	1	Wilson	McBrien
"	20	3	North Harmony	Lenz
"	23	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	23	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	23	1	Niagara Falls	McDonald
Double-crest. Cormorant	16	603	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
<u>American White Pelican</u>	8	1	Niagara Falls, ON	Snaith, Duncan
"	14	4	Olcott	Mance-Coniglio
"	14	4	Porter	Voight
American Bittern	13	5	Iroquois NWR	Anderson, Mattle, Miles
Least Bittern	1; 2; 13	1; 1; 2	Iroquois NWR	Stanger; Martin; Mattle, Miles
"	5; 6; 16	1; 1; 2	Tift NP	Barth, Thomas, Pawlicki
"	23; 24	1	Pomfret	VerHague; Mosher
Great Egret	30	31	Motor Island	Humann
Black Vulture	6	2	Lewiston	Rose-Burney
Bald Eagle	18, 29	4	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	26	3	Barcelona Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Virginia Rail	22	4	Conewango Swamp WMA	Lenz
Common Gallinule	19	10	Iroquois NWR	Lenz
American Coot	26	8	Iroquois NWR	Lenz
Sandhill Crane	3	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	20	2	Niagara Falls, ON	Curry
Upland Sandpiper	6	1	Java	Martin
"	7	4	Tillman WMA	Sweeney et al
"	25	2	Shelby	Morien
Ruddy Turnstone	1	18	Ellery	Vanstrom
"	1	13	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Sanderling	4	6	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
Semipalmated Sandpiper	17	6	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
Bonaparte's Gull	8	2	Wilson	Wing
"	12	3	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	12	1	Tonawanda	Barton
Iceland Gull	<u>5</u>	1	Wilson	Pawlicki
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4, 5; 6	2, 1; 2	Wilson	Pawlicki; Guthrie
Glaucous Gull	<u>6</u>	1	Wilson	Guthrie
Great Black-backed Gull	16	18	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Caspian Tern	6; 19; 24	47; 66; 67	Point Breeze	Morien; Sharon; Pawlicki
"	19	47	Olcott	Pawlicki
Black Tern	6; 13	38; 36	Iroquois NWR	Guthrie; Mattle, Miles
Common Tern	16	453	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Forster's Tern	5	1	Wilson	Carlson
<u>Eurasian Collared-Dove</u>	3-30	1-2	Wilson	D'Anna et al
Snowy Owl	<u>4</u>	1	Buffalo Harbor	Walters
Common Nighthawk	4	1	Iroquois NWR	D'Anna et al
"	9	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	9	1	Wilson	Guthrie
"	9	2	Marilla	Holmes
"	11; 25	1; 1	Buffalo	Yoerg; Morgante
"	11L	1	Amherst	Morgante
Eastern Whip-poor-will	11	6	Port Colborne, ON	J&K Landau, Rew
Red-headed Woodpecker	6	1	Point Breeze	Morien
"	7, 18	1, 2	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
"	13	3	Emery CP	Salembier
"	16	1	Como Lake CP	Mitchell
"	28	1	Point Gratiot	Goetz
Merlin	3	2	East Aurora	Holmes
"	11	2	Chautauqua Institute	Hardenburg
"	26	1	Cuba Lake	Morien, Barth
"	28	1	Buffalo	Harbison
Peregrine Falcon	10	1	Tift NP	Humann, Lewis
"	26	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Acadian Flycatcher	14	5	Hunter's Creek CP	Mitchell (BOS)
Common Raven	10; 13	1; 5	Tonawanda	Galas; Rose-Burney
Purple Martin	3	85	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	19, 22	63	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	24	77	Newstead	Morien
Cliff Swallow	26	23	Cuba	Morien, Barth
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	<u>22</u>	1	Lost Nations SF	R&D Rosche
Swainson's Thrush	2	1	Tonawanda	Hess
"	15	1	Buffalo	Yoerg
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	1	Cuba	Lenz
"	14	1	Hunter's Creek CP	Mitchell (BOS)
"	27-30	2	Allegany SP	Hess
Black-and-white Warbler	14	5	Alma	Pawlicki, Guthrie
"	29	2	Alfred	Brooks
Prothonotary Warbler	2; 6; 13	1; 2; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Martin; Guthrie; Mattle, Miles
Nashville Warbler	4	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	29	1	Gerry	Vanstrom
Cerulean Warbler	19	3	Iroquois NWR	Barton
Northern Parula	26	1	New Hudson	Morien, Barth
"	26	1	Caneadea	Morien, Barth
Blackpoll Warbler	1	1	Cuba Lake	Lenz
"	2	1	Jamestown Audubon	Leenders
"	2	1	Shelby	Morien
"	13	1	Buckhorn Island SP	Kerr, Coleman, Misener
"	14	1	Times Beach	Rose-Burney
"	14	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Mitra, Lindsay
"	<u>19</u>	1	Shelby	Morien
Prairie Warbler	1-30	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
"	6	1	Grove	Martin
"	6; 26	2; 5	Yorkshire	Thomas; Kerr

<u>Species</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	20	1	North Harmony	Lenz
Clay-colored Sparrow	3; 26	1 PV	Krull Park	Barth; Sharon
"	24	1	Newstead	Morien
Vesper Sparrow	16	1	Tillman WMA	Mark
Grasshopper Sparrow	2	2	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
"	20; 26-27	1; 2	Middlebury	Morien, Beattie; Morien
White-throated Sparrow	13, 28, 29	6, 6, 4	Alfred	Brooks
"	17	2	Machias	D'Anna et al
Bobolink	10	21	John White WMA	Morien
"	26	25	Yorkshire	Kerr
Orchard Oriole	4; 6; 9	1	Wilson	Pawlicki; Guthrie; Morse
"	9, 16	2	Olcott	Galas, Rising
"	6, 16	2, 1	Lewiston	Rose-Burney
"	9; 14	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	R. Guthrie; Mitra, Lindsay
"	20	1	Middlebury	Morien, Beattie
"	23	1	Ripley	Raszkowski
"	30	1	Carlton	Bemont
Pine Siskin	5, 7	1	Forestville	VerHague
"	6-16	1	Fredonia	Goetz
"	16	3	Portland	Hardenburg
"	19; 26; 30	5; 11; 4	Wilson	D'Anna; Sharon; Fell
"	11-13, 19	1	Shelby	Morien
"	23, 28, 30	1	Marilla	Holmes

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 268

Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the month: 1

Total for the year (to date) 2015: **269**

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.

*(The Month continued from page 62)*

There were few notable records of passerines this month. A single Ruby-crowned Kinglet was found by the Roches on the 22<sup>nd</sup> in Lost Nations State Forest in the Town of Centerville, Allegany County. The usual warblers were in evidence throughout the region. Blackpoll Warblers were seen in early June, the last being reported on the 19<sup>th</sup> by Morien in the Town of Shelby, one day later than the latest date noted in the Verification Date Guide. There was no report of a Yellow-throated Warbler in Allegany State Park this year.

Grassland sparrows were sparse. Single Clay-colored Sparrows were reported in Krull Park by Barth on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and by Sharon on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Morien heard one in the Town of Shelby on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The latter site is new for the species. Mark found a Vesper Sparrow in Tillman WMA on the 16<sup>th</sup>. VerHague saw two Grasshopper Sparrows at Dunkirk Airport on the 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the Town of Middlebury, Morien and Beattie found one Grasshopper Sparrow on the 20<sup>th</sup> and Morien later on the 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> identified two at this location.



(Top) Common Yellowthroat photographed by Sue Barth at Orchard Park on June 25<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Clay-colored Sparrow photographed by Sue Barth at Olcott on June 3<sup>rd</sup>.



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## Summer - Fall Calendar and Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271

Bird Hotline: 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335

Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog: <http://bnnatureblog.com/>

**July 6 - Oct. 9 (Weekly):** Bill Watson memorial waterbird counts on the upper Niagara River and Iroquois NWR and vicinity. Please consider participating in this effort to help count Great Egrets and other colonial nesting waterbirds on the upper Niagara River and around the Iroquois NWR complex as they return to communal roosts starting approximately one hour prior to sunset. Contact Jim Pawlicki ([jimpawli10@gmail.com](mailto:jimpawli10@gmail.com); Niagara River) and/or Celeste Morien ([celeste.morien@gmail.com](mailto:celeste.morien@gmail.com); Iroquois NWR) to coordinate count efforts and data compilation.

**Oct. 10: Saturday NOT Sunday! BOS Annual October Count.** The compiler is Marcie Jacklin at [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577. BOS members are encouraged to participate.

**Oct. 14: Wednesday BOS Meeting in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science at 7:00 PM.**

**Oct. 21: Wednesday, 2015 Vaughan Lecture, "Birds-of-Paradise: Extreme, Bizarre, Extraordinary", 7PM at the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Dr. Edwin Scholes, Evolutionary Biologist and Director of Research & Interpretation at the Macaulay Library at Cornell University, will be speaking about the Birds of Paradise Project. In 2012, Edwin Scholes and world-renowned wildlife photographer Tim Laman released the National Geographic book *"Birds of Paradise: Revealing the World's Most Extraordinary Birds"*. This book was the culmination of a near decades long quest to find and document all 39 species of birds-of-paradise for the first time. Join Ed for



Bobolink carrying food for young, photographed by Sue Barth at Orchard Park on June 17<sup>th</sup>.

an engaging presentation with fascinating stories of research and adventure paired with stunning imagery, sounds and video illuminating the secret lives of these incredible birds.

**Oct. 24: Saturday not Sunday. Lake Ontario Plain Field Trip for fall migrants.** Meet at 8 am at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 and Route 104, north of Lockport. Leader: Willie D'Anna (751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com)).

**Nov. 11: Wednesday BOS Meeting in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science at 7:00 PM.** If the names Powerful Owl, Superb Fairywren and Plains-Wanderer stir your imagination then join us for a presentation of Birds of Eastern Australia. BOS members Bernie Kester & Holly Sweeney will share pix & video of some of the more than 400 species of birds from 86 families seen on their 2014 trip (and other flora & fauna & foibles).



# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 8 August 2015

### THE MONTH: July

Timothy Baird

July 2015 accommodated those of us who enjoy summer's weather. The month produced a mix of pleasant days, a few thunderstorms, and a limited number of the hazy, hot, and humid conditions so often associated with summer's peak. The National Weather Service summary noted that no single weather pattern settled over the area. The average temperature was only one-tenth of a degree below normal and there were 16 days above the average temperature of 71°F and 15 days below. A high temperature of 91°F on July 29th was the first 90 degree reading since July of 2013. Rainfall was eight-tenths of an inch below normal with three quarters occurring during the first two weeks. Most of the precipitation came in a few thunderstorms centered south of the City of Buffalo. Lake Erie's water warmed from 64°F at the start of the month to 75°F by the end.

The Neotropic Cormorant observed by Pawlicki and DuPont at Buffalo Harbor on the 15th and the Black-bellied Whistling-Duck visiting Wilson-Tuscarora on the 11th (Lewis) and the 16th (D'Anna) no doubt felt at home with our summer season and warm waters mimicking the climatic conditions of their usual haunts in the subtropics and tropics. These two species are relatively new additions to the birds of the region. The whistling-duck was first noted in the B.O.S. study area in August 2010 and the cormorant in April of this year. Is it just a coincidence that these two species happened to show up so far from their home ranges in recent times, or are there some mitigating factors influencing them both in a similar manner?

On the opposite side of the climate coin, Snow Geese are supposed to be in the cool conditions of July on the tundra. A single Snow Goose lingered at Fort Niagara State Park from mid July to near the end of the month (Lewis, Pawlicki, Fell). Migrating from the tundra, shorebirds make their return this month having finished a quick nesting season up north. Following

- |    |   |                   |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 67 | <b>The Month</b>                        | Lawrence's        |
|    | <i>Timothy Baird</i>                    | encounter of 48   |
| 69 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>               | Lesser            |
|    | <i>Joe Mitchell &amp; Statisticians</i> | Yellowlegs at the |
| 72 | <b>Calendar</b>                         | Tonawanda         |
|    |   | Wildlife          |
|    |   | Management        |



(Top) Pileated Woodpecker feeding its fledgling photographed by Sue Barth at Orchard Park on July 28<sup>th</sup>  
(Bottom) Double-crested and Neotropic Cormorants photographed by Dupont at Buffalo Harbor on July 15<sup>th</sup>.

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
 Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
 Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebehazy

**Society Officers:**

President: Michael Morgante  
 V. President: David Suggs  
 Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
 Secretary: Debbie Suggs  
 Statisticians: Tim Baird  
 Willie D'Anna  
 Mike Morgante  
 Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
 Archivist: Audrey Horbett

**Council:**

2013-2015	Joseph Fell Michael Galas Lynne Landon
2014-2016	Alec Humann Donna DeLeon Debbie Suggs
2015-2017	Thomas O'Donnell Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney

Area on the 4th, this species population swelled to 122 on July 26th (Pawlicki and Mitchell). Mitchell found 200 Least Sandpipers amassed at the Tonawanda WMA on July 21st.

A juvenal Red-headed Woodpecker reported by Seburn on the 16th at Fort Erie is an encouraging sign for this declining species. The lake plains support a population of this woodpecker that is rare elsewhere in the B.O.S. Study Area. This writer's personal experience with this species in the southwestern portions of the Allegheny Plateau over 30+ years suggests that the Red-headed Woodpecker is all but extirpated from

this elevated region.

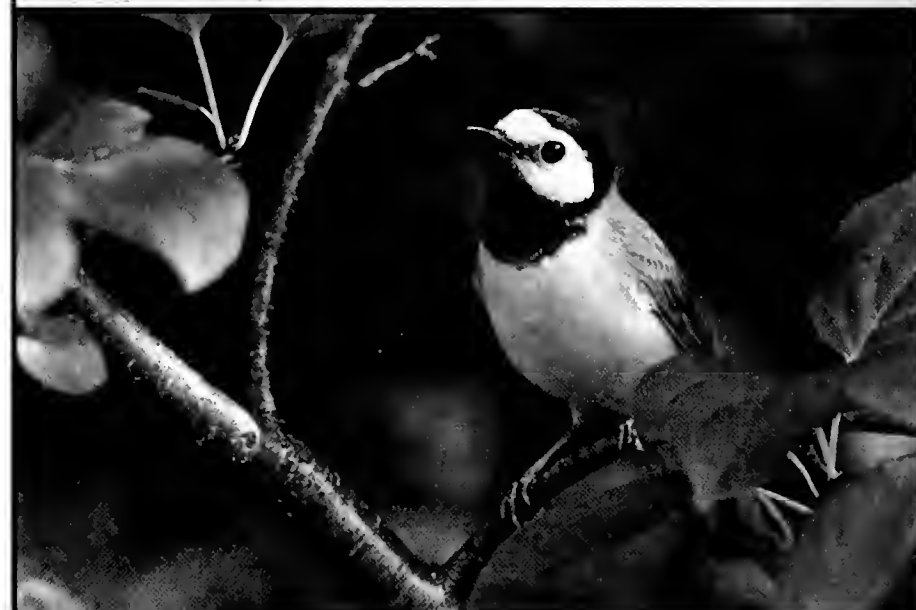
A Eurasian Collared-Dove remained in Wilson (Powell and Salembier). The 20th Century found this species spreading to the north in Europe and Asia from its traditional range in subtropical Asia. This dove has been rapidly establishing a North American population since its arrival in Florida in 1982. Its North American range is primarily south and west of the northeast, but we might expect a continued northeastward expansion on the continent and the eventual establishment of a resident population in our region.

This month brought the first B.O.S. July record for Cape May Warbler. Humann located a Cape May Warbler in Forest Lawn Cemetery on July 24th. The previous first fall record in B.O.S. Data Base is an observation from Hamburg on August 8, 1975 (Andrle). A Louisiana Waterthrush reported from Jamestown by Leenders on the 28th is likely a fall migrant as this early spring warbler leaves its nesting areas along streams in the southern tier very soon after fledging young.

Clay-colored Sparrow reports from three areas support this species' establishment of a regular nesting season presence in the region. Six White-throated Sparrows in Alfred on the 25th (Peterson) indicate that this sparrow continues with a scattered nesting population on the Allegheny Plateau, but a single listing of Vesper Sparrow from Beattie in Bethany on the 27th

exemplifies its precipitous decline as a nesting species.

B.O.S. observers added two species to the yearly list. A Stilt Sandpiper was located at the Tonawanda WMA on the 21st by Mitchell and again on the 30th by Morien. Reports by Lawrence *et al* noted an Eared Grebe throughout most of July at the Batavia Waste Water Treatment Plant.



(Top to Bottom) Black-bellied Whistling-Duck photographed by Willie D'Anna at Wilson-Tuscarora State Park on July 16<sup>th</sup>, Black Tern photographed by Sue Barth at Iroquois NWR on July 5<sup>th</sup>, and Hooded Warbler photographed by Sue Barth at Orchard Park on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
<u>Black-bellied Whistling-Duck</u>	11, 16	1	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Lewis; D'Anna
Snow Goose	<u>13, 22, 25</u>	1	Fort Niagara SP	Lewis; Pawlicki; Fell
Mute Swan	5	6-7	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Powell et al
Gadwall	2, 15	9, 12	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
"	5	2	Buffalo Outer Harbor	Wulker
"	14	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
American Wigeon	12	16	Tonawanda WMA	Guthrie
American Black Duck	6	1	Goat Island	Pawlicki, Guthrie
"	21	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Blue-winged Teal	19	8	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	30F	5	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Northern Shoveler	8	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki
"	9	1	North Harmony	Lenz
"	26	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Northern Pintail	26	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Green-winged Teal	4; 12; 16	13; 30; 20	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence; Guthrie; Morien
Redhead	8, 12	1	Point Breeze	Guthrie
"	21	2	St. Catharines, Ont.	Highcock
"	25	1	Newfane	Strong
"	26; 27	3; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague; Guthrie
"	28	3	Times Beach	Seidman
Greater Scaup	2; 6	1; 4	Goat Island	Salembier; Pawlicki
"	21	1	St. Catharines, Ont.	Highcock
Lesser Scaup	2-18	1-2	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence et al
"	2; 4; 6	1	Goat Island	Salembier; Powell; Pawlicki
Harlequin Duck	<u>1; 2; 4</u>	1 PV	Goat Island	Barton; Salembier; Powell
White-winged Scoter	1; 2; 4; 6	2	Goat Island	Barton et al
Common Merganser	23	21	Wellsville	Reichman
Ruddy Duck	11; 26	7; 20	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Anderson
Common Loon	2	1	Olcott	Pawlicki
* Eared Grebe	2-27	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence et al
<u>Neotropic Cormorant</u>	15	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki, Dupont
Double-crest. Cormorant	10	300	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	13, 21	780, 952	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
American Bittern	3; 5; 12	3; 2; 1	Iroquois NWR	Guthrie; Morien; Guthrie
"	28	2	Tonawanda WMA	Dupont
Least Bittern	1; 3; 5; 23	1; 2; 1; 1	Iroquois NWR	Smith; Guthrie; Morien; Sharon
Great Egret	3; 21	47; 68	Motor Island	Barton; Pawlicki
"	5, 16, 30	53, 71, 138	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
Black-cr. Night-Heron	29	8	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Osprey	8	5	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
"	14	6	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	27	4	Conewango Swamp WMA	Shiperd
Bald Eagle	30	4	Sheridan	VerHague
Virginia Rail	2	2	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Sora	26	1	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
"	29	1	Jamestown Audubon	Levin

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Gallinule	12	16	Iroquois NWR	Guthrie
American Coot	3; 5	17; 12	Iroquois NWR	Guthrie; Morien
Sandhill Crane	26	2	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	28	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Black-bellied Plover	31F	2	Tonawanda WMA	Morien, Barth
Semipalmated Plover	8F; 31	1; 25	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki; Morien
Killdeer	31	75	Tonawanda WMA	Morien, Barth
American Avocet	14F	4	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	19	2	Ellery	Vanstrom
Spotted Sandpiper	18	35	Batavia WWTP	McGowan, Santana
Solitary Sandpiper	8F; 26	4; 32	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki; Pawlicki, Mitchell
Greater Yellowlegs	4F; 21	1; 22	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence; Mitchell
Willet	7F	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague; Harbison
"	14	1	Bird Island Pier	Yoerg
"	19	1	Barcelona Harbor	Steeg
Lesser Yellowlegs	4F; 26	48; 122	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence; Pawlicki, Mitchell
Upland Sandpiper	1; 2; 3	1	Tillman Rd WMA	Fell et al
"	29	1	Shelby	Morien
Sanderling	16F; 21	2; 3	Point Breeze	Guthrie; Lawrence
"	18; 30	2	Buffalo Harbor	McGowan, Santana; Pawlicki
"	30	6	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
Semipalmated Sandpiper	9F	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
"	26	65	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Least Sandpiper	4F; 21	4; 200	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence; Mitchell
White-rumped Sandpiper	16F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morien, Barth
Pectoral Sandpiper	12F; 31	3; 18	Tonawanda WMA	Guthrie; Morien, Barth
* Stilt Sandpiper	21F; 30	1	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell; Morien
Short-billed Dowitcher	8F; 21	1; 6	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki; Mitchell
Bonaparte's Gull	13	2	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	24	2	Wellsville	Reichman
Ring-billed Gull	22	890	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
Herring Gull	13; 18	86; 50	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki; McGowan, Santana
"	22	325	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
Caspian Tern	8; 30	83; 31	Point Breeze	Guthrie; Morien
"	24	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
"	30	24	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
Black Tern	5	40	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	12	49	Tonawanda WMA	Guthrie
"	15	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Common Tern	22	73	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
Forster's Tern	<u>2</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
"	<u>11</u>	1	Wilson	Sawusch
Eurasian Collared-Dove	5; 15	1 PV	Wilson	Powell; Salembier
Common Nighthawk	18	2	Jamestown	Menck
Chimney Swift	30	273	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	3	Point Gratiot	Goetz
"	16	1 juv	Fort Erie, Ont.	Seburn
"	27	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
Merlin	1-19	2 nests	Lakewood	Simmons
"	12	1	Canadaway Creek WMA	VerHague
"	17	2-3	Buffalo	Yoerg
"	26	1	Wellsville	Peterson
Peregrine Falcon	1-30	1-2	Reports from 10 locations	Multiple Observers
Acadian Flycatcher	18	1	Tifft NP	McGowan, Santana
Purple Martin	16	80	Akron	Morien
"	16	80	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Tree Swallow	26	165	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Bank Swallow	21	55	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Barn Swallow	15; 18	200; 130	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence; Beattie
"	30	119	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Winter Wren	1	4	Allegany SP	Hess
Swainson's Thrush	3	1	Allegany SP	Hess
Louisiana Waterthrush	1	4	Allegany SP	Hess
"	3	2	Westfield	Lenz

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	8	2	Chestnut Ridge Park	Gainey
"	28	1	Jamestown	Leenders et al
Black-and-white Warbler	25	1	Alfred	Peterson
Prothonotary Warbler	4	1	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
Nashville Warbler	19	1	Alfred	Peterson
Cape May Warbler	<u>24F</u>	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
Cerulean Warbler	8	2	Royalton	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Black-throated Blue Warbler	12	2	Canadaway Creek WMA	VerHague
"	20	1	Attica	Beattie
Prairie Warbler	3	1	Grove	Brooks
"	4	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
"	11	2	Cuba	Morris
"	11	2	Whitesville	Reichman
"	19	1	Allegany SP	Menck
Canada Warbler	4	1	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
Clay-colored Sparrow	2	1	<u>Somerset</u>	Pawlicki
"	9; 10; 21	4; 3; 1 PV	<u>Krull Park</u>	D'Anna; Harbison; Dupont
"	23-31	1	<u>Lakeside Beach SP</u>	Bemont et al
Vesper Sparrow	27	1	Bethany	Beattie
Grasshopper Sparrow	1; 2; 3; 14	2; 2; 1; 1	Tillman Rd WMA	Morien et al
"	3; 8	2	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague; Harbison; Salim
"	16	1	Newstead	Barth
"	19	1	Middlebury	Beattie, Barth
"	20	1	Alexander	Beattie
White-throated Sparrow	25	6	Alfred	Peterson
Bobolink	12	37	Birdsall	Morien, Beattie
"	20	36	Alexander	Beattie
Orchard Oriole	2	2	Sinking Ponds WS	Holmes
"	4	4	Carlton	Bemont
"	9; 30	5; 1	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont; Beattie
"	9	1	Krull Park	D'Anna et al
"	23, 24	3, 2	Bethany	Beattie
Pine Siskin	3-4	1	Marilla	Holmes
"	26	1	Whitesville	Reichman

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 269  
Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the month: 2  
Total for the year (to date) 2015: 271

**Statisticians' Note:** If any observer wishes to know the status of their verification report, please contact the Statisticians and we will give them the reasons for our decision. Please advise us of any errors in the Noteworthy Records.



Albino Tree Swallow photographed by Chris Kundl at Gratwick Park - North Tonawanda on July 8<sup>th</sup>. "There's an overgrown field with nesting boxes at the south end of the park where I believe it is a resident."



Grasshopper Sparrow photographed by Sue Barth at Genesee County airport on July 8<sup>th</sup>.



**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **Fall & Winter Calendar and Announcements**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird:** 716-896-1271  
**Bird Hotline:** 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335  
**Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog:** <http://bnnatureblog.com/>

**Nov. 11: Wednesday BOS Meeting in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science at 7:00 PM.** If the names Powerful Owl, Superb Fairywren and Plains-Wanderer stir your imagination then join us for a presentation of Birds of Eastern Australia. BOS members Bernie Kester & Holly Sweeney will share photos and video of some of the more than 400 species of birds from 86 families seen on their 2014 trip.

**Nov. 19: Thursday. A Toast to Gerry Rising at the Big Ditch Brewing Company, 55 E Huron St., Buffalo, NY 14203 (map) at 6 PM.** Join us for this community event! We wish to celebrate Gerald Rising's quarter century of contributions to the Science page of The Buffalo News. Gerry's beloved column "Nature Watch" has been a fixture on the local science scene in Western New York. The Buffalo News has decided to forgo publishing this local page devoted to environmental news. We have all learned so much from Gerry! Please drop in after work, or plan to spend the evening, as we gather to toast Gerry's years of service to our community. Please share this with your friends. All are welcome.

**Nov. 29: Sun. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association, for gulls and waterfowl.** Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced driver's license. Dress warmly. Leaders: RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or [RSPAHN@prodigy.net](mailto:RSPAHN@prodigy.net)) BOS leader Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569 or [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)).

**Dec. 9: Wed. Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. We will also elect officers for the year 2015.

**Dec. 19: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler Garner Light (716-491-4408 or [garnerlight@hotmail.com](mailto:garnerlight@hotmail.com)).

**Dec. 19: Saturday. 7:30 AM. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Tom Kerr ([tkerr.buffaloaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:tkerr.buffaloaudubon@gmail.com)) or Beaver Meadow 585-457-3228 Tue. to Sat.

**Dec. 20: Sunday. B.O.S. CBC.** Compiler: David Gordon ([dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com) or 716-390-1429).

**Dec. 20: Sunday. St. Bonaventure CBC.** Compiler: Regina M. VanScoy (716-925-7109 or [vanscoy716@outlook.com](mailto:vanscoy716@outlook.com)).

**Dec. 20: Sunday. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin ([mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577).

**Dec. 20: Sunday. Jamestown CBC.** Compiler: Bill Seleen ([wseleen@stny.rr.com](mailto:wseleen@stny.rr.com) or 716-664-4204).

**Dec. 27: Sunday. Niagara Falls (ON/NY) CBC.** Compilers: (Ontario) Kayo Roy [kayoroy@niagara.com](mailto:kayoroy@niagara.com) or 905-892-4433, (New York State) Willie D'Anna [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com) or 716-751-3637.

**Dec. 28: Monday. Oak Orchard CBC.** Compiler Celeste Morien at [celeste.morien@gmail.com](mailto:celeste.morien@gmail.com) or 585-721-8202.

**Jan. 1, 2016: Friday. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz ([goetz@netsync.net](mailto:goetz@netsync.net) or 716-673-1627).

**Jan. 2, 2016: Saturday. Hamburg-East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell ([tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com) or 716-284-5569).

**Jan. 2, 2016: Saturday. Port Colborne CBC.** Compiler: Drew Campbell [drew.campbell@gm.com](mailto:drew.campbell@gm.com) or [drewcampbell@roadrunner.com](mailto:drewcampbell@roadrunner.com); (home) 716-668-0759 or (cell) 812-797-6679. Meet at McDonald's, Highway 3 and Highway 58, Port Colborne at 8am.



**Willow Flycatcher photographed by Sue Barth at West Seneca on July 16<sup>th</sup>.**

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 9 September 2015

### THE MONTH: August

*Jim Pawlicki*

August 2015 was described by the Buffalo National Weather Service as comfortable, with an average temperature of 69.7°F, just a tenth of a degree above normal. Fourteen days recorded below average temperatures and fifteen above, the warmest of which was on the 19<sup>th</sup> when the temperature reached 89°F. The month's total precipitation came out to 4.39 inches, 1.13 inches above average, over two-thirds of which fell on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> when frontal boundaries moved across the region and created localized heavy rainfall. An impressive 27 out of the month's 31 days saw either fair or partly cloudy sky-cover, while winds averaged out at a near normal 8.4 mph.

Numbers of southbound shorebirds peaked during the second half of the month, and despite the occasional heavy rain that created habitat in flooded fields, most observations came from locations such as the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, Buffalo Harbor, and the north Lake Erie shore in Ontario. A juvenile Western Sandpiper was photographed by Mitchell and seen by others at Wood Marsh at the Tonawanda WMA on the 11<sup>th</sup> and a banded Piping Plover was photographed by Yoerg at a sod farm in Dunnville (Ont) on the 30<sup>th</sup>. The month's only report of Buff-breasted Sandpiper was also from Dunnville (Ont) on the 19<sup>th</sup>, while single Whimbrels were seen at Fort Erie (Ont) on the 27<sup>th</sup> and Buffalo Harbor on the 30<sup>th</sup>. A Willet was found on the 29<sup>th</sup> at a small, shallow pond in the southwestern corner of Lakeside Beach State Park that also hosted several other species of shorebirds, including Short-billed Dowitcher, and Stilt, White-rumped, and Baird's Sandpipers.

By far, the month's rarest and most surprising sighting came on the morning of August 2<sup>nd</sup> when Humann was shocked to see a Swallow-tailed Kite circling low overhead and drifting due north near Soldier's Circle in the city of Buffalo. After quickly snapping a cell phone photo, Humann shared the sighting on various media outlets, but the bird was not

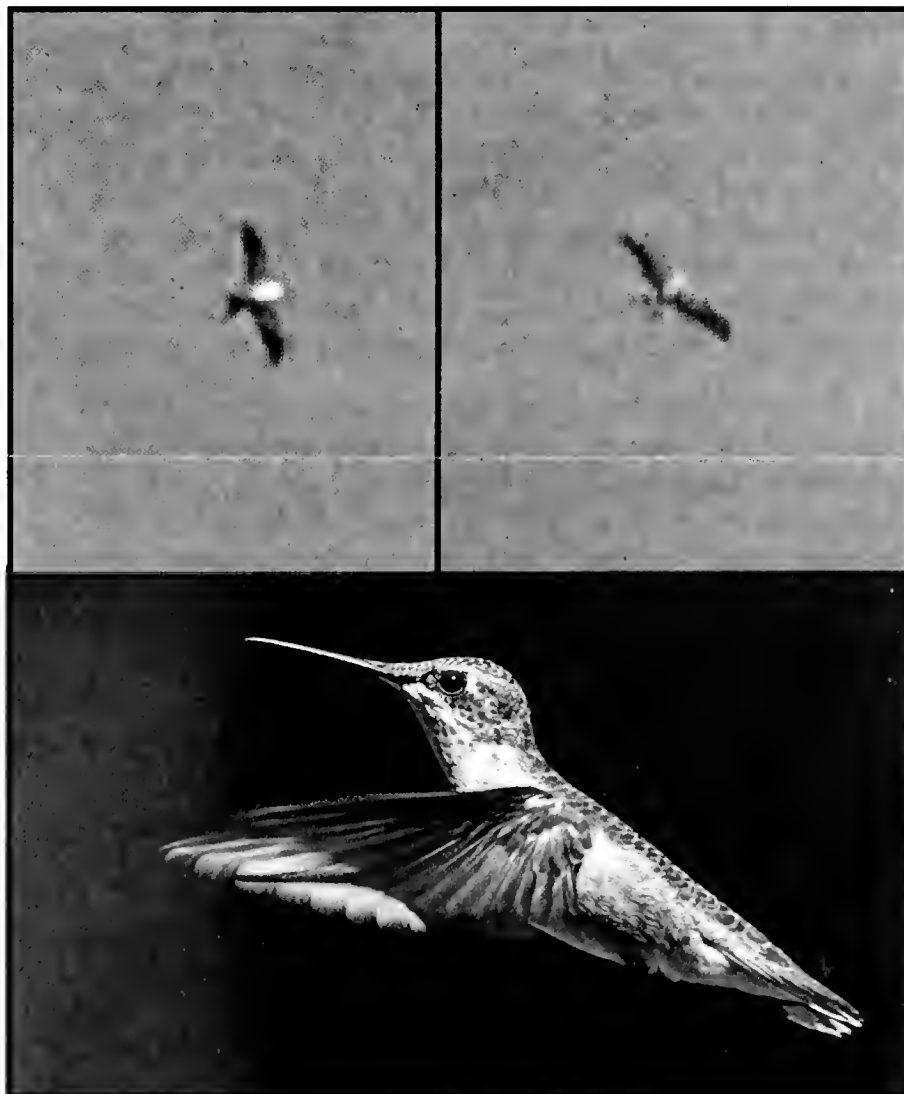
- 73 **The Month**  
*Jim Pawlicki*  
75 **Noteworthy Records**  
*Joe Mitchell & Statisticians*  
78 **Calendar**

seen again. This is only the 4<sup>th</sup> record of Swallow-tailed Kite for the BOS study area, and



the first to occur during the summer months. The three prior records were 2 May 2012 at the Hamburg Hawkwatch by Sisti, Landau, and Chilton; 3 May 2000 at the Ripley Hawkwatch by DeFrancisco; and 10 April 1926 at Jamestown by Peterson and Beal. Other extralimital reports of Swallow-tailed Kites occurring in July and August of this year included sightings in central Michigan, eastern Illinois, southern and central Indiana, southern Kansas, and coastal Massachusetts.

The season's first major influxes of neotropical migrants such as flycatchers, warblers, vireos, and thrushes were noted during the last week of the month as they began their migration southward. At least 21



(Top) Swallow-tailed Kite photographed by Alec Humann at Buffalo on August 2<sup>nd</sup> and (Bottom) Ruby-throated Hummingbird photographed by Sue Barth at Orchard Park on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebehazy

**Society Officers:**

President: Michael Morgante  
V. President: David Suggs  
Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
Secretary: Debbie Suggs  
Statisticians: Tim Baird  
Willie D'Anna  
Mike Morgante  
Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

**Council:**

2013-2015	Joseph Fell Michael Galas Lynne Landon
2014-2016	Alec Humann Donna DeLeon Debbie Suggs
2015-2017	Thomas O'Donnell Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney

species of warblers were reported, including boreal nesting species such as Tennessee, Cape May, Blackpoll, Bay-breasted, and Wilson's Warblers. A migrant Cerulean Warbler photographed by Seidman at Forest Lawn Cemetery on the 19<sup>th</sup> provided a rare fall sighting away from the species' breeding grounds. Uncommon to rare migrants, Olive-sided Flycatchers were noted in West Seneca on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and Amherst State Park on the 30<sup>th</sup>, while Yellow-bellied Flycatchers were reported from three locations from the 22<sup>nd</sup> through 30<sup>th</sup>.

Like species such as Louisiana Waterthrush and Acadian Flycatcher that reach the northern end of

their ranges in Western New York, Orchard Orioles begin their southward migration in July and the small numbers that breed in the study area are almost entirely absent by mid-August. Notable were at least three observations of the species from Lakeside Beach State Park during the month, including a record-late sighting documented by D'Anna on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Other interesting sightings included an early Red-necked Grebe on Lake Ontario in Wilson on the 24<sup>th</sup>, 1-2 Eared Grebes at their regular late-summer/fall location at the Batavia WWTP, and the study area's resident Black Vultures that continue to be seen in and around the town of Lewiston.

**Literature cited:**

Beardslee C.S. and H.D. Mitchell. 1965. *Birds of the Niagara Frontier Region: An annotated checklist*. Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences 22: 160.  
DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database. 1964-2011  
eBird: An online database of bird distribution and abundance. <http://www.ebird.org>  
Welch, S. Monthly Weather Summary for August 2015. Buffalo National Weather Service. <http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/>



Aug 29, 2015

Mike Morgante -

I have only a single significant observation for the seasonal Kingbird report involving the behavior of a common crow.

I was in downtown Buffalo visiting the library when I noticed a crow picking + pecking at something in the grass. I walked up closer and discovered a live bat. Every time the crow would peck at it it would spread its wings. The crow eventually flew away and the bat appeared to be alright. It eventually hid under some oak leaves in the grass.

I am aware that crows will eat carrion but apparently does not eat bat. It is rare to get an up close view of a crow's food preference.

Sincerely

Mark Gretch

(Top to Bottom) Northern Mockingbird photographed by Sue Barth at Batavia WWTP on August 21<sup>st</sup>, immature Scarlet Tanager photographed by Sue Barth at Orchard Park on August 6<sup>th</sup>, and a note by Mark Gretch on the behavior of an American Crow.

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Trumpeter Swan	12	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Wood Duck	21	150	Batavia WWTP	Morien, Barth, Lawrence
Gadwall	9	1	Dayton Gravel Ponds	Lenz
"	26	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Mallard	19	486	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Podoliak
Blue-winged Teal	21	28	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Northern Shoveler	26	11	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Northern Pintail	20	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
"	28	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Green-winged Teal	27	46	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki
Redhead	1; 19	5; 5	Batavia WWTP	Barth; Morien
"	13	3	Times Beach	Seidman
"	18	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
Greater Scaup	15	1	Buffalo River	Kundl
Lesser Scaup	23	1	Wilson	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	2	1	Motor Island	Rusin
Long-tailed Duck	20, 30	1	Rock Point PP, Ont.	Yoerg
Ruddy Duck	18	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	26	14	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Ruffed Grouse	28	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Common Loon	7	4	Mayville	Lenz
"	24, 28	3, 1	Wilson	D'Anna
Red-necked Grebe	<u>24</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Eared Grebe	1-26	1-2	Batavia WWTP	Barth; Lawrence et al
Double-crest. Cormorant	1	400	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	18	90	Iroquois NWR	Morien
American Bittern	9	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	10	1	Alfred	Peterson
"	28	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	30	1	Tift NP	Hoover
Great Egret	17, 24	151, 243	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Black Vulture	3, 8	7, 8	Lewiston	Rose-Burney
Osprey	11	4	Tonawanda WMA	Gullo
* <u>Swallow-tailed Kite</u>	2	1	Buffalo	Humann
Bald Eagle	15	5	Tonawanda WMA	Morien; Harbison
"	27	4	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Common Gallinule	28	35	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Sandhill Crane	8-28	1-7	Iroquois NWR	Fell, Pawlicki et al
"	17	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Black-bellied Plover	1; 17	2; 4	Tonawanda WMA	Sawusch; Mitchell
"	19, 30	30, 17	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg
"	10	12	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
* American Golden-Plover	15F	1	Tonawanda WMA	Morien, Barth, Harbison
"	19, 30	3, 4	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg
"	23	4	Oakfield	Morien, Beattie
Semipalmated Plover	7	36	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
* <u>Piping Plover</u>	19	1	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Killdeer	24	159	Oakfield	Morien
"	30	200	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg
Solitary Sandpiper	2	16	Chautauqua	Vanstrom
"	2	30	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
Willet	29	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence et al
Lesser Yellowlegs	2; 13	101; 130	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell; Morien
Upland Sandpiper	9	1	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
"	8	3	Tillman Rd. WMA	Yoerg
"	23	1	Shelby	Morien
Whimbrel	27	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Humann
"	30	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki
Ruddy Turnstone	25, 27	1, 2	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	30	9	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki
Sanderling	21	2	Point Breeze	Morien, Barth, Lawrence
"	27	6	Fort Erie, Ont.	Humann
"	30	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki
Semipalmated Sandpiper	4	40	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
* <u>Western Sandpiper</u>	11	1	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell, Morien, Barth, Beattie
Least Sandpiper	4; 12	150; 73	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell; Morien
White-rumped Sandpiper	20; 21	1	Tift NP	Seidman; Harbison
"	21	2; 1	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell; Morien et al
"	29	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
* Baird's Sandpiper	19	2	Rock Point PP, Ont.	Yoerg
"	19	4	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Podoliak
"	29; 30	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Morien, D'Anna; Powell
Pectoral Sandpiper	7	59	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell
Stilt Sandpiper	2; 19	2; 5	Tonawanda WMA	Mitchell; Lawrence, Podoliak
"	29, 30	2	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna et al
* Buff-breasted Sandpiper	30	1	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg
Short-billed Dowitcher	1; 20	2; 4	Tonawanda WMA	Kester; Morien
"	30	3	Lakeside Beach SP	Morien, Beattie
Caspian Tern	12	41	Tonawanda WMA	Morien
"	21	72	Point Breeze	Morien, Barth, Lawrence
Black Tern	21	1	Batavia WWTP	Morien et al
"	21	1	Point Breeze	Morien, Barth, Lawrence
Black-billed Cuckoo	20	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
Common Nighthawk	16	2	Grand Island	Sharon
"	19	1	Orchard Park	Bertola
"	19; 23	1; 4	Amherst	Morgante; Salembier
"	23	11	Tonawanda	Hess
"	28	1	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr
"	30	5	Whitesville	Reichman
Red-headed Woodpecker	1-29	1-3	Lakeside Beach SP	Gullo et al
"	9; 18	1	Point Gratiot	Goetz; Smith
"	27, 30	3, 5	Fort Erie, Ont.	Humann
Merlin	5	1 ad, 1 fl	Lancaster	Mrozek
"	11	1	Tonawanda WMA	Gullo
"	25	1	North Harmony	Vanstrom
"	27	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Gullo
"	28, 30	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Humann
"	30	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki
"	30	1	Chautauqua Institute	Hardenburg
"	31	2	East Aurora	Crowell
Peregrine Falcon	6	2	Grand Island	Humann
"	7	1	Niagara Falls	Plew
"	9	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	19	1	Rock Point PP, Ont.	Yoerg
Olive-sided Flycatcher	23F	1	West Seneca	Yerkovich
"	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	22F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
"	25, 28, 30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	29	1	Wilson	Potter
Eastern Kingbird	16	20	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
Philadelphia Vireo	26F, 27	1	Amherst SP	Salembier

<u>Species</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Common Raven	3	1	Pomfret	Mosher
Horned Lark	23; 40	31; 40	Oakfield	Morien; Mark
Tree Swallow	8, 21	685, 850	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Bank Swallow	12	60	Tonawanda	Hess
"	24	125	Alabama	Morien
Barn Swallow	8	385	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Veery	23	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Swainson's Thrush	27F	2	Tonawanda	Hess
"	29	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Ovenbird	21F	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
"	23	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
Northern Waterthrush	10F	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Yoerg
"	29, 30	1	Times Beach	Seidman
Black-and-white Warbler	9F	1	East Aurora	Holmes
"	15	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Barton
Tennessee Warbler	22F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
"	22F	1	Times Beach	Seidman
Nashville Warbler	22F	2	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
"	22F	1	Tifft NP	Sawusch
Mourning Warbler	28F	1	Wilson	Potter
Cape May Warbler	14-27	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	22	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
Cerulean Warbler	12	1	Newstead	Morien
"	19	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Seidman
Northern Parula	28F	1	Amherst	Morse
"	29	2	West Seneca	Yerkovich
Magnolia Warbler	21F; 29	1; 6	Amherst SP	Pawlicki; Pawlicki, Salembier
Bay-breasted Warbler	13F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	5	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Blackburnian Warbler	5F	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
"	8	1	Tonawanda WMA	West
Chestnut-sided Warbler	21F	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
"	22	3	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
Blackpoll Warbler	28F	2	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr
"	28F	1	Erie Basin Marina	Seidman
Black-throated Blue Warbler	20F	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
Pine Warbler	6	4	Lakeside Beach SP	Devlin
Yellow-rumped Warbler	18F	1	Grand Island	Sharon
Black-throat. Green Warbler	26F, 28	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Canada Warbler	18F	1	Ashford	J. Rosenberg
"	26	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Wilson's Warbler	26F	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Grasshopper Sparrow	1	1	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
"	8	3	Tillman Rd. WMA	Yoerg
Vesper Sparrow	16	1	Attica	Beattie
"	24	1	Alabama	Morien
Bobolink	18, 28	57, 100	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Orchard Oriole	1; 9; <u>29L</u>	6; 4; 1	Lakeside Beach SP	Gullo; Bemont; D'Anna
"	23	1	Shelby	Morien
Baltimore Oriole	27	12	Crescent Beach, Ont.	Humann

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year:

271

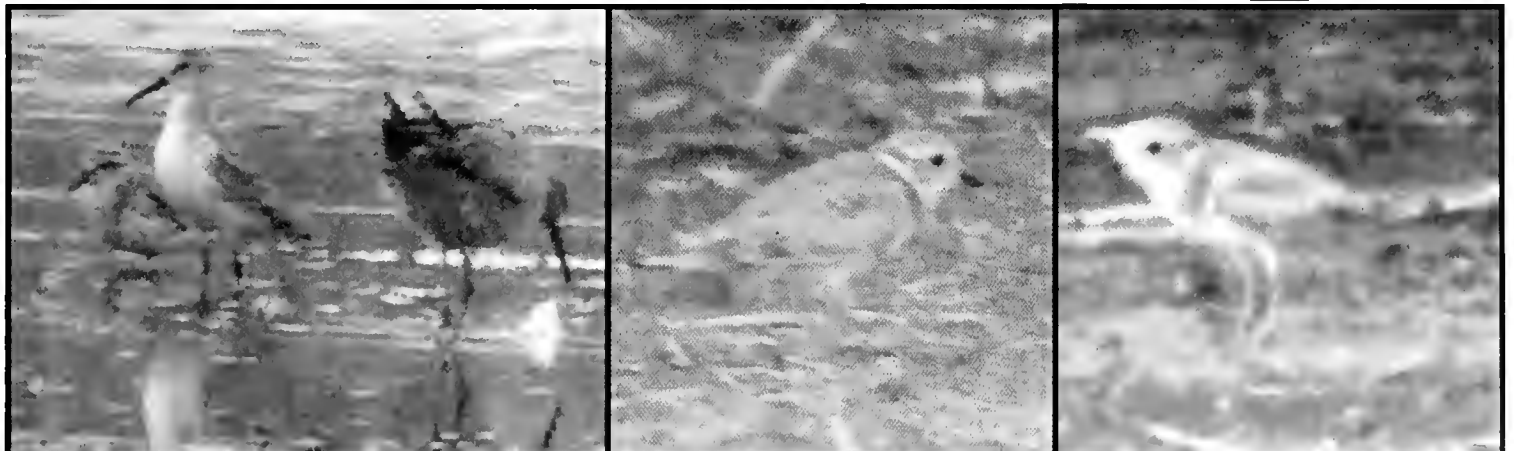
Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the month:

6

Total for the year (to date) 2015:

**277**

(Left to Right) Western Sandpiper (middle bird) photographed by Joe Mitchell at Tonawanda WMA on August 11<sup>th</sup> and two images of a Piping Plover photographed by Peter Yoerg at Dunnville, Ontario on August 19<sup>th</sup>.





**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **Fall & Winter Calendar and Announcements**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird:** 716-896-1271  
**Bird Hotline:** 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335  
**Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog:** <http://bnnatureblog.com/>

**Nov. 19: Thursday. A Toast to Gerry Rising at the Big Ditch Brewing Company, 55 E Huron St., Buffalo, NY 14203 (map) at 6 PM.** Join us for this community event! We wish to celebrate Gerald Rising's quarter century of contributions to the Science page of The Buffalo News. Gerry's beloved column "Nature Watch" has been a fixture on the local science scene in Western New York. We have all learned so much from Gerry! Please drop in after work, or plan to spend the evening, as we gather to toast Gerry's years of service to our community.

**Nov. 29: Sun. Niagara River joint trip with Rochester Birding Association, for gulls and waterfowl.** Meet at 9:00 AM at Fort Niagara State Park in the parking lot just outside the old fort. Make sure you have a passport, passport card, Nexus, or enhanced driver's license. Dress warmly. Leaders: RBA Bob Spahn (585-671-5690 or [RSPAHN@prodigy.net](mailto:RSPAHN@prodigy.net)) BOS leader Tom O'Donnell (716-284-5569 or [tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com)).

**Dec. 9: Wed. Buffalo Ornithological Society Annual Holiday Celebration at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Please bring a treat to share and enjoy an evening of birding friendship. We will also elect officers for the year 2016.

**Dec. 19: Saturday. Wilson-Lake Plains CBC.** Compiler Garner Light (716-491-4408 or [garnerlight@hotmail.com](mailto:garnerlight@hotmail.com)).

**Dec. 19: Saturday. 7:30 AM. Beaver Meadow CBC.** Compiler: Tom Kerr ([tkerr.buffaloaudubon@gmail.com](mailto:tkerr.buffaloaudubon@gmail.com)) or Beaver Meadow 585-457-3228 Tue. to Sat.

**Dec. 19: Saturday Scio CBC.** Compiler: Russell Allen (585) 593-3109 or [rlatrains@yahoo.com](mailto:rlatrains@yahoo.com)

**Dec. 20: Sunday. B.O.S. CBC.** Compiler: David Gordon ([dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com) or 716-390-1429).

**Dec. 20: Sunday. St. Bonaventure CBC.** Compiler: Regina M. VanScoy (716-925-7109 or [vanscoy716@outlook.com](mailto:vanscoy716@outlook.com)).

**Dec. 20: Sunday. St. Catharines CBC.** Compiler: Marcie Jacklin ([mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca) or 905-871-2577).

**Dec. 20: Sunday. Jamestown CBC.** Compiler: Bill Seleen ([wseleen@stny.rr.com](mailto:wseleen@stny.rr.com) or 716-664-4204).

**Dec. 27: Sunday. Niagara Falls (ON/NY) CBC.** Compilers: (ON) Kayo Roy [kayoroy@cogeco.ca](mailto:kayoroy@cogeco.ca) or 905-892-4433, (NY) Willie D'Anna [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com) or 716-751-3637.

**Dec. 28: Monday. Oak Orchard CBC.** Compiler Celeste Morien at [celeste.morien@gmail.com](mailto:celeste.morien@gmail.com) or 585-721-8202.

**Jan. 1, 2016: Friday. Dunkirk-Fredonia CBC.** Compiler: Joanne Goetz ([goetz@netsync.net](mailto:goetz@netsync.net) or 716-673-1627).

**Jan. 2, 2016: Saturday. Hamburg-East Aurora CBC.** Compiler: Tom O'Donnell ([tmodonnell@roadrunner.com](mailto:tmodonnell@roadrunner.com) or 716-284-5569).

**Jan. 2, 2016: Saturday. Port Colborne CBC.** Compiler: Drew Campbell [drew.campbell@gm.com](mailto:drew.campbell@gm.com) or [drewcampbell@roadrunner.com](mailto:drewcampbell@roadrunner.com); (home) 716-668-0759 or (cell) 812-797-6679. Meet at McDonald's, Highway 3 and Highway 58, Port Colborne at 8am.

**Jan. 13: Wed. Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** Speaker TBD.

**Jan 17: Sunday. January Waterfowl Count and Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.** The count window is from Jan.16-24. However, counters are urged to use the target date of Sunday, Jan 17 if at all possible ( weather permitting). Contact the compiler for info or questions: Jim Landau at 716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)



**Red-tailed Hawk**  
 photographed by Sue Barth  
 at Akron on August 6<sup>th</sup>.

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 10 October 2015

### THE MONTH: September

David F. Suggs

The National Weather Service described September as mostly dry with above normal temperatures. The high for the month was 88 °F occurring on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and a low of 47 °F on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The average maximum and minimum temperatures for the month were 76 °F and 58 °F, both values five degrees above the 30 year norm. After a dry spell early in the month, a stalled low pressure area on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> dropped up to 3 inches of rain on Buffalo and the northern suburbs. Conditions returned to dry until a cold front ended the month with 1.4 inches of rain at the Buffalo Airport. Winds averaged a mild 8 mph, and the peak gust of 39 mph, from the southwest, occurred on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

BOS observers added three new species to the 2015 total during the month of September, increasing the species count to 280. This is slightly below the recent five year average of 284. A juvenile Long-Billed Dowitcher was reported from Wood Marsh at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, Red-necked Phalaropes were reported in mid-September at Tifft Nature Preserve and Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, and on the last day of the month a Parasitic Jaeger was reported at Lake Ontario near Wilson.

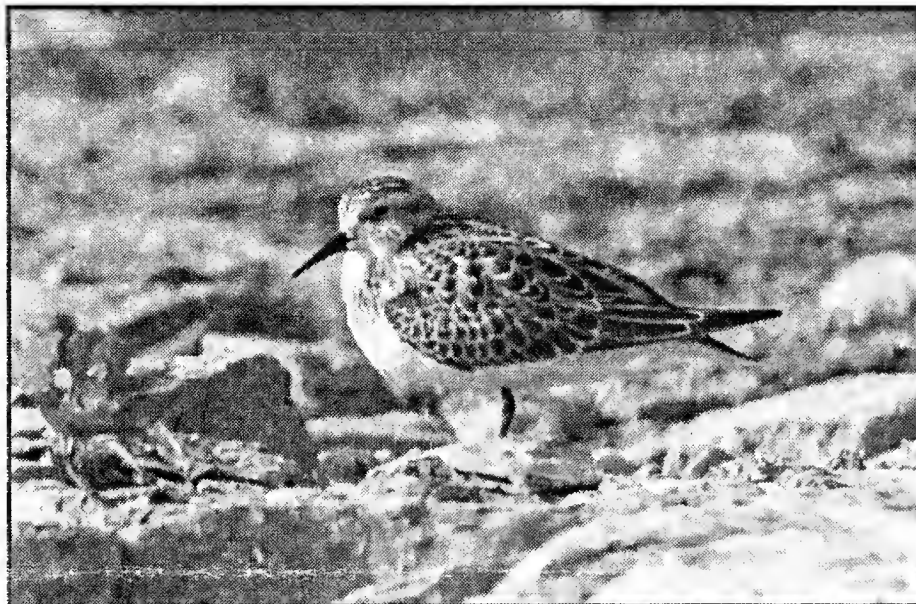
By far the most abundant species reported this month was the Purple Martin. During a September 5<sup>th</sup> BOS field trip led by Celeste Morien to Buckhorn Island State Park (see field trip report on p. 85), participants witnessed an estimated 30,000 martins swarming the reed covered Sunken Island (also known as Grass Island) in the Niagara River. There are previous records of massive numbers of Purple Martins in proximity to the Niagara River during August and September. On

79	<b>The Month</b>	two dates in
	<i>David F. Suggs</i>	August 1998,
81	<b>From the President's Desk</b>	Shaffner and
	<i>Mike Morgante</i>	Clark reported
82	<b>Noteworthy Records</b>	83,000 and
	<i>Joe Mitchell &amp; Statisticians</i>	50,000 martins
85	<b>Tifft NP Field Trip Report</b>	at Times Beach
	<i>Joe Mitchell</i>	Nature Preserve
85	<b>Purple Martin Trip Report</b>	and in 1978
	<i>Celeste Morien/Alec Humann</i>	Brownstein
86	<b>Calendar</b>	reported 35,000
		martins at Porter



Avenue (LaSalle Park/Black Rock Canal). Other species in the Noteworthy Records that have occurred in numbers greater than 30,000 are Canada Goose, Greater Scaup, Bonaparte's Gull, Herring Gull, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle.

Nineteen shorebird species were included in the September records. Several of these were reported from Lakeside Beach State Park on the Lake Ontario



(Top) Baird's Sandpiper photographed by Sue Barth at Lakeside State Park on September 11<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Winter Wren photographed by Sue Barth at Orchard Park on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebehazy

#### Society Officers:

President: Michael Morgante  
V. President: David Suggs  
Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
Secretary: Debbie Suggs  
Statisticians: Willie D'Anna  
Alec Humann  
Mike Morgante  
Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

#### Council:

2014-2016	Alec Humann Donna DeLeon Debbie Suggs
2015-2017	Thomas O'Donnell Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney
2016-2018	Sue Barth David Gordon David Suggs

shore during the first half of the month and included Willet, Whimbrel, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher. These species likely migrate along the Lake Ontario shoreline, but are rarely recorded within sight of that lake. Buff-breasted Sandpipers continued from late August in the fertile sod farms of the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario. Two were reported by Yoerg in Dunnville on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. This species has been found almost annually on the peninsula, but is irregular in the WNY portion of the region. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, four Buff-breasted Sandpipers in the Genesee County Town of Alabama, found by Morien, were just the seventh record for

this county and the nearby refuge areas.

First reported in 2011, an isolated flock of Black Vultures continues to reside near the lower Niagara Gorge in the Village of Lewiston in Niagara County. The gorge should be favorable to breeding for this vulture species, but has yet to be confirmed. Elsewhere in the region, Black Vulture is still a very rare migrant. Gale VerHague verified a migrant on the 27<sup>th</sup> above the Chautauqua Ridge in the Chautauqua County Town of Hanover.

The breeding colony of Clay-colored Sparrows at Krull Park in Olcott was first documented in 2005. Clay-colored Sparrows were also found in July this year in nearby Somerset and at Lakeside Beach SP. A Clay-colored Sparrow from one of these locations lingered into September at Olcott and was photographed by Jim Sawusch on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jim Wodjewodzki had the rare pleasure of hearing the repeated calling of an Eastern Whip-poor-will from a spruce tree in his yard in the Erie County Town of Holland. This occurrence was outside the Verification Date Guide range for the species, and Jim's verified report becomes the tenth September record of the species.

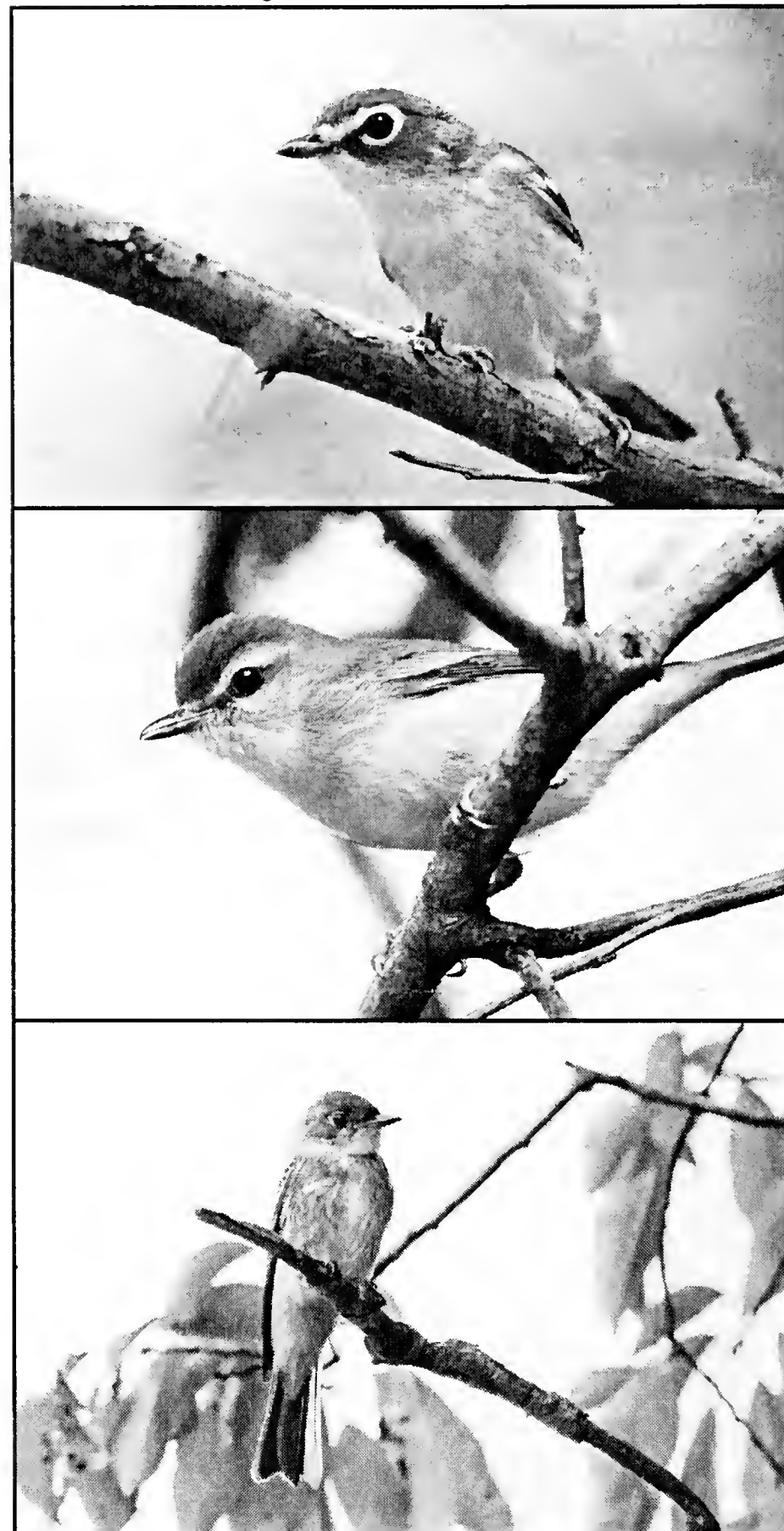
Nine Sandhill Cranes in the Iroquois NWR on the 16<sup>th</sup> were a new maximum for September. Five

American Woodcocks on Grand Island on the 17<sup>th</sup> were the highest count since 20 were recorded in the Southern Tier in September 1975, although birders infrequently conduct counts or submit records for this species. Nineteen warbler species during September included some species that remained through the month, including Tennessee Warbler on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Northern Parula on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, and Canada Warbler on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### **References**

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database. 1964-2014

Welch, S., Monthly Weather Summary for September 2015. Buffalo National Weather Service. <http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/>



(Top to Bottom) Blue-headed Vireo at Lake Erie State Park on September 28<sup>th</sup>, Philadelphia Vireo at Orchard Park on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Eastern Wood-Pewee at Orchard Park on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. All photographs by Sue Barth.

# From the President's Desk: Results of 2015 BOS Members Survey

*Mike Morgante*

Mike Galas and the Council decided it was a good time to survey members on several items that have been discussed at Council meetings in recent years. In late May 2015, the 2015 BOS Members Survey was distributed as ten questions on a Survey Monkey link and Mike also solicited some feedback from several members that do not use computers. The survey was intentionally short to maximize participation and included the following introduction:

"The officers of the Buffalo Ornithological Society would like to improve the society both to increase member satisfaction for existing members and to attract new members. We ask you to take a few minutes to fill out this survey and to share your ideas on how we can improve our society."

I presented the results at the September meeting, but would like to take this opportunity to show the yes and no results. Just as valuable as the yes/no responses were the many comments received, which were not trackable to responder and thus anonymous. A total of 66 responses were received, slightly more than one quarter of current members. According to Mike, this was a much better response than a similar survey conducted in the 1990s.

Many thanks to Mike Galas and Bob Deleon for their efforts in implementing the survey and compiling the results. This input will help the Council and the Officers make us a better organization by helping us grow to meet the needs of our membership.

**(1) Our meetings start at 7 p.m. and need to conclude by 8:45 p.m. as per time constraints at the Museum of Science. Should the starting time be changed to allow more meeting time?**

Yes - 0, No - 47.

While this is a very convincing response, among the 16 comments were suggestions for other times ranging between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. start times and finding more time than the current 7 – 8:45 time period.

**(2) Should BOS conduct at least some meetings away from the museum?**

Yes - 14, No – 23.

Among the 18 comments were several suggestions on other locations, as well as likes and dislikes about attending the meetings at the Museum of Science. We have held the June meeting at Tiff Nature Preserve for many years and it has not been a highly attended meeting.

**(3) Do you think there should be more time for socializing and talking about birds?**

Yes – 34, No – 15.

Among the 10 comments were suggestions to have longer meetings, seek an extension beyond the 8:45 limit at the Museum, and generally to allow more socializing time at each meeting and elsewhere. Perhaps we need a social director volunteer!

**(4) Do we welcome new birders?**

Yes – 24, No – 15.

This question drew the most comments with 27, which were all over the place from suggestions to support for the yes and no thoughts. Some of the comments were historical while others focused on the present and future.

**(5) Should we do more with other organizations like Buffalo Audubon Society, Roger Tory Peterson Institute, The Nature Conservancy, etc.?**

Yes – 43, No – 9.

There were many suggestions among the 21 comments and general support for more collaboration although some felt there isn't a need to do anything more.

**(6) Would you consider running for an Office or becoming a member of the Council?**

Yes – 9, No – 46.

Some of the 12 comments indicated they were already in office, so even more so these results are an indication of how few are interested. I will add that I suspect many members would expect that far more time and effort is involved than really is.

**(7) Would you be interested in doing an article for The Prothonotary?**

Yes – 3, No – 39.

Of the nine comments were some suggestions for articles and content. One commenter indicated that the content is above their ability to contribute. I will respectfully respond that there is room for all to contribute. If you have thoughts on birding locations, birding experiences, historical notes, or any ideas, even if as short as a paragraph, please consider contributing. I prepared a monthly birding quiz c. 2002-2004, which would be a great idea for someone else to pick up. I kept it short and usually learned something while flipping through field guides or historical BOS records to prepare them each month.

**(8) Have you visited the BOS website?**

Yes – 27, No – 15.

Among the 14 comments were many suggestions for additions and improvements. I'm excited about the updating that Sue Barth is doing for our website, some of which is already completed and some is still in the works.

**(9) Would you be willing to lead a field trip either locally or out of town?**

Yes - 3, No – 34.

There were suggestions for trips on the 12 comments, and some thought that they are not experienced enough to lead a trip. Members really like the field trips and most would like to see more, at a minimum of one per month, which we have generally maintained at least one per month. To do this, we need to have leaders and not all leaders need to be as experienced in the field as some of our regular trip leaders.

**(10) Please read the questions and comment on as many areas as possible: How can we improve the membership experience? What can we do to make this a better organization and encourage participation? We have a great newsletter but what could we add to make it even better? What other field trips would you like to see? Do you have any suggestions for future speakers?**

There were 36 comments to these multiple questions which provide some good input. As expected with any survey, some of the comments received are complete opposite viewpoints of other comments expressed. We plan to explore these questions and responses in the coming year and beyond.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	20	7	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Lewis
Trumpeter Swan	20	1	Conewango Swamp WMA	VerHague
Wood Duck	12; 16	200; 102	Batavia WWTP	Lenz et al; Pawlicki
Gadwall	7; 14	25; 25	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal; Beattie
American Wigeon	16; 25	25; 40	Batavia WWTP	Chiu; Beattie
American Black Duck	30	16	Wilson	D'Anna
Blue-winged Teal	6	19	Tifft NP	Humann
"	7; 20	81; 103	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal; Beattie
Northern Shoveler	7; 16	100; 224	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal; Pawlicki
Northern Pintail	30	449	Wilson	D'Anna
Green-winged Teal	13	27	Tifft NP	Mitchell et al (BOS)
"	16	32	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki
Redhead	10-13	2	Tifft Nature Preserve	Hauser et al
"	12; 14; 16	3; 6; 9	Batavia WWTP	Lenz; Beattie; Pawlicki
Ring-necked Duck	25F	3	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Greater Scaup	26F, 30	3, 51	Wilson	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	11F	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
"	22	2	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Surf Scoter	30F	44	Wilson	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	10, 30	9, 8	Wilson	D'Anna
"	26	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
Ruddy Duck	1; 25	10; 34	Batavia WWTP	Tetlow, Sherony; Beattie
Common Loon	10, 30	1, 41	Wilson	D'Anna
"	13	3	Tifft NP	Mitchell et al (BOS)
Horned Grebe	14	1	Batavia WWTP	Thomas
Red-necked Grebe	10, 30	1, 10	Wilson	D'Anna
"	11, 26	2, 1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
"	23	2	Golden Hill SP	Lewis, Barth, Kester, Sweeney
Eared Grebe	1-30	2	Batavia WWTP	Tetlow, Sherony et al
Double-crest. Cormorant	7, 22	1608, 2057	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Least Bittern	10	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Great Egret	10; 19	254; 267	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki; Morien
Black Vulture	13; 19; 26	4; 2; 6	Lewiston	Thomas; Morgante; Pawlicki
"	<u>27</u>	1	Forestville	VerHague
Bald Eagle	10	4	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	13	3	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
Broad-winged Hawk	5	1	Alfred	Brooks
Virginia Rail	7; 14	4; 2	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg; Beattie
"	17	1	Orchard Park	Barth
"	18	1	Times Beach NP	Kerr
Sora	7; 14, 20	2; 4	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg; Beattie
"	12	2	Iroquois NWR	Lenz et al
Common Gallinule	10	61	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	10	1	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr
"	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Podoliak
Sandhill Crane	2	3	Alabama	Sawusch
"	7; 14; 16	2; 7; 9	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence; Morien; M. Tetlow

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	10	1	Dunnville, ON	Yoerg
"	19	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
Black-bellied Plover	3, 10	18, 14	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg
"	19	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Rose-Burney, Harbison
"	22, 27	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	24	1	Batavia WWTP	R. Guthrie
American Golden-Plover	1-2	1-5	Alabama	Morien et al
"	2; 7	6; 3	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Yoerg
"	10	9	Shelby	Morien
"	20	1	Dayton Gravel Ponds	VerHague
"	27	1	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
Semipalmated Plover	7	14	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	2; 6	13	Lakeside Beach SP	Purcell; Morien, Barth
Killdeer	2	275	Alabama	Humann, Bacher
Solitary Sandpiper	1	1	Lakeside Beach SP	M. Tetlow, Sherony; Harbison
"	29	5	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
Willet	1-2	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Sherony; D'Anna, Potter
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	28	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Whimbrel	11	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Ruddy Turnstone	3	1	Rock Point PP, ON	Yoerg
"	8	1	Point Breeze	Pawlicki
"	12, 13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz, Smith
"	27	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki
Sanderling	1	6	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	3	13	Rock Point PP, ON	Yoerg
"	15	10	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	26	1	Point Breeze	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	19	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Baird's Sandpiper	1	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	1-8	1	Lakeside Beach SP	M. Tetlow et al
"	2	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	2; 12	2; 3	Batavia WWTP	Humann et al
"	10	1	Rock Point PP, ON	Yoerg
Pectoral Sandpiper	2; 7	23; 41	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Lawrence
Stilt Sandpiper	1-11	2-4	Lakeside Beach SP	M. Tetlow et al
"	5	2	Buckhorn Island SP	Morin et al
"	10	4	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell, Morien
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1-2	3-4	Alabama	Morien et al
"	3	2	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg
Short-billed Dowitcher	1-8	1	Lakeside Beach SP	M. Tetlow et al
"	2; 7	1; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Lawrence
* Long-billed Dowitcher	10; 12	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki et al; Lenz
American Woodcock	17	5	Grand Island	Humann
* Red-necked Phalarope	14	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	16; 17	2; 2	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki; Beattie
Little Gull	8	1	Grand Island	Thomas
Lesser Black-backed Gull	8	1	Point Breeze	Pawlicki
"	26	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Black Tern	8	6	Point Breeze	Pawlicki
Common Tern	30	112	Wilson	D'Anna
Forster's Tern	10	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
* Parasitic Jaeger	30	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	20	1	Conewango Swamp WMA	VerHague
"	26	1	Canadaway Creek WMA	VerHague
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	1	Fort Erie, ON	Humann
"	7	1	Canadaway Creek WMA	VerHague
"	12L	1	Buffalo	Seidman
Common Nighthawk	1-17	3-4	Tonawanda	Hess
"	1; 15	3; 5	Grand Island	Thomas; Sharon
"	3	8	Dunnville, ON	Yoerg
"	5	1	Buckhorn Island SP	Morien et al
"	5	2	Niagara Falls	Tom & Sue O'Donnell
"	6	2	Rushford	Morgan
"	6, 15	1, 3	Clarence	Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	15	2	Delaware Park	Gainey
Eastern Whip-poor-will	3	1	Holland	Wojewodzki
Chimney Swift	6; 8; 25	73; 80; 33	Buffalo	Bacher; Harbison; Humann
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	6	Lake Erie SP	Smith
"	5	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	5	2	Wilson	Giles
"	7	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	18	4	Point Breeze	Pawlicki
"	21; 23	3; 2	Point Gratiot	VerHague; Goetz
Merlin	5-30	1	11 Locations	Multiple Observers
Peregrine Falcon	2-26	1	9 Locations	Multiple Observers
Olive-sided Flycatcher	3, 14	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	6	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	9	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	10	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
"	24	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Alder/Willow Flycatcher	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Humann, Bacher
"	6	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Barth, Morien
Least Flycatcher	26	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
Eastern Kingbird	14	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Gullo
Yellow-throated Vireo	10L	3	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Warbling Vireo	29	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	13, 30	4, 1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	27	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Yoerg
Common Raven	3	1	Pomfret	Moshers
Horned Lark	2	46	Alabama	Humann, Bacher
Purple Martin	5	30000	Buckhorn Island SP	Morien et al
Tree Swallow	12	1000	Batavia WWTP	Lenz, Kahle, Goldberg
Northern Rough-w. Swallow	14	40	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Bank Swallow	12L	50	Batavia WWTP	Lenz, Kahle, Goldberg
Cliff Swallow	12L	5	Batavia WWTP	Lenz, Kahle, Goldberg
Barn Swallow	1	82	Buckhorn Island SP	Humann
"	3	80	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Winter Wren	13F	1	Orchard Park	Barth
"	22	4	Amherst SP	Salembier
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14F	2	Amherst SP	Barth
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3F	1	Reinstein Woods NP	Walraven
Veery	3	2	Grand Island	Humann
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9F	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	10, 21	4, 9	Grand Island	Humann
"	19	2	Tonawanda	Hess
Swainson's Thrush	10, 21	18, 24	Grand Island	Humann
"	13	11	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
"	19	58	Tonawanda	Hess
Wood Thrush	26	1	Batavia	Beattie
American Pipit	24F	4	Shelby	Morien
"	26	2	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
Cedar Waxwing	12	300	Canadaway Creek WMA	VerHague
Ovenbird	26L	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
"	26L	1	Lake Erie SP	Barth
Northern Waterthrush	18L	1	Tifft NP	Walraven
Golden-winged Warbler	9	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Blue-winged Warbler	14L	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier; Barth
Black-and-white Warbler	27	1	Buffalo	Rose-Burney
Tennessee Warbler	1	2	West Seneca	Yerkovich
"	30	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Nashville Warbler	10	12	Amherst SP	Salembier
Mourning Warbler	1	2	Times Beach	Pawlicki
"	3	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Hooded Warbler	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki
"	23	2	Point Gratiot	Goetz
"	27, 30	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Cape May Warbler	18; 21; 22	5	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Sweeney, Kester et al
Northern Parula	1	1	Times Beach	Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	29	1	Orchard Park	Barth
Bay-breasted Warbler	13	10	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
"	18	8	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Sweeney, Kester
Yellow Warbler	24L	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Palm Warbler	5F	1	Times Beach	Seidman
Pine Warbler	21	2	Point Gratiot	VerHague
Black-throat. Green Warbler	23	16	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
Canada Warbler	1	7	Fort Erie, Ont.	Humann
"	20	1	Grand Island	Thomas
Wilson's Warbler	26	1	Buffalo	Kerr
Clay-colored Sparrow	15	1	Olcott	Sawusch
Savannah Sparrow	20, 26	12, 17	Amherst	Pawlicki
Grasshopper Sparrow	8	1	Batavia	Beattie
Lincoln's Sparrow	9F	2	Alfred	Peterson
"	24	3	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	1	Alexander	Beattie
White-throated Sparrow	3	2	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr
"	24	60	Wilson	D'Anna
White-crowned Sparrow	24F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30	1	Marilla	Holmes
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	25	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Indigo Bunting	26L	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
Bobolink	12	20	Tonawanda WMA	Lenz, Kahle, Goldberg
Red-winged Blackbird	5	475	Buckhorn Island SP	Morien et al
"	10	450	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell, Morien
Common Grackle	5	345	Buckhorn Island SP	Morien et al
Baltimore Oriole	13; 20	1; 1	Tifft NP	Mitchell et al (BOS); Sharon

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year:

277

Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the month:

3

Total for the year (to date) 2015:

280

## BOS field trip to Tifft Nature Preserve

*Joe Mitchell*

The annual BOS fall field trip to Tifft Nature Preserve was held on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and turned out to be one of, if not the best, field trips that I have had the pleasure of leading. Twenty participants braved what initially appeared to be a wet, cold, and windy morning of birding. The weather turned for the better allowing for a great day of fall birding and the birds were even better! Altogether, 72 species were tallied with highlights including Scarlet Tanager, Philadelphia Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Swainson's Thrush, four swallow species, Chimney Swift, Purple Martin, four shorebird species (Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper), three flyover Common Loons, two Redhead, and at least one representative of every dabbling duck that occurs in WNY.

Eighteen warbler species were seen during the trip and totaled between 50-60 individuals. The majority of these birds were present in a large flock that we had the pleasure of running into more than once. The experience was truly a great one as the birds largely stayed around eye level or below, close to the path, and at times moved close by the group and seemed to flow past us as the flock actively foraged. Highlights were many, with several Black and White, Bay-breasted, Magnolia, Tennessee, and Chestnut-sided Warblers along with at least two each of Northern Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, and Yellow Warblers.

Thank you to all who participated on this great day!

## Purple Martin Field Trip to Grass Island/Niagara River

*Celeste Morien and Alec Humann*

The Buffalo Ornithological Society and New York State Purple Martin Project joint field trip led by Celeste Morien and Alec Humann was held Saturday, September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015 at Buckhorn Island State Park. To everyone's delight, the martins put on a truly spectacular show! Connie Adams from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation estimated the Purple Martin numbers at 30,000 and 33,000 birds. Saying this was quite a sight is quite an understatement! Please plan to attend next September to view this part of the Niagara River's Important Bird Area, which is known as the Grass Island, to see the swirling mass of martins as they come to roost. The Grass Island is located in the Niagara River west of the boat marina on East-West Road.

Large numbers of martins at roosts are noted in the Buffalo Ornithological Society's historical record. This roost is the first reported since the 1960's. Alec Humann noticed martin activity in August of 2012 while birding at Buckhorn SP. The roost site is under the jurisdiction of New York State Parks and it is hoped the DEC can convince the state to provide additional protections to the site.

The thirty-two field trip attendees were also treated to seeing an Osprey, a Common Nighthawk, a Merlin racing toward the Grass Island for a meal, an American Woodcock that startled us by practically joining the field trip, Common Grackle and Red-winged Blackbird flocks, Pied-billed Grebes, Mallards, Canada Geese, Cedar Waxwings, American Goldfinches, Barn Swallows, a Chimney Swift, a Double-crested Cormorant, four Lesser Yellowlegs, two Stilt Sandpipers, Wood Ducks and a bat flyby. Some of the bird sightings were made by new young birders, which was especially gratifying. We want to thank Connie Adams and all the attendees for making our field trip a resounding success!



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## Winter Calendar and Announcements

Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271  
 Bird Hotline: 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335  
 Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog: <http://bnnatureblog.com/>

**Jan. 16 (2-5PM): Saturday.** St. Maximilian Kolbe Hall, 8656 Church Street, East Pembroke. NY. A Celebration of Life, In loving memory of Gail Webb Seamans. The family would like to invite you to celebrate the life of Gail Seamans. Bring your old memories to share.

**Jan. 17: Sunday.** January Waterfowl Count and Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey. The count window is from Jan.16-24. However, counters are urged to use the target date of Sunday, Jan 17 if at all possible ( weather permitting). Contact the compiler for info or questions: Jim Landau at 716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com).

**Jan. 17: Sunday.** Half day Field Trip to Goat Island. Meet 8AM at the parking lot for Three Sisters Island. We will start at Goat Island and will finish up at the Waterfowl Viewing Area along the Robert Moses Parkway. The field trip will be led by Chris Kundl. (Contact info: [ckundl13@gmail.com](mailto:ckundl13@gmail.com)).

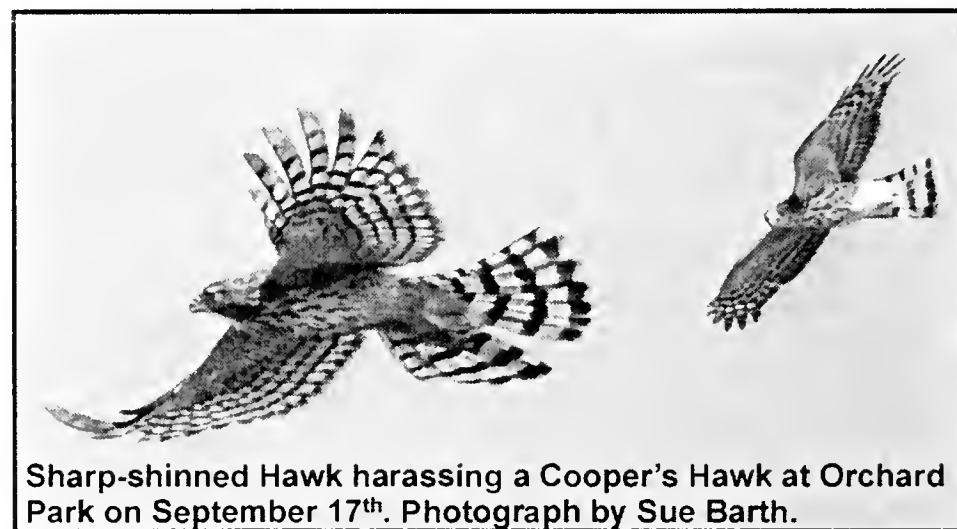
**CANCELLED Jan. 30: Saturday.** Half day field Trip to Dunkirk Harbor. Meet 8 AM at the main pier parking lot. The field trip will be led by Gale VerHague.

**Feb. 10: Wednesday.** Rarity Roundup Presentation. Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. A slideshow of photos and stories will be presented by BOS members that will include some of the rarities seen in the BOS study area in 2015! If you have photos and stories of any rarities you saw in 2015, please email the photo(s) to Sue Barth: [suebarth@verizon.net](mailto:suebarth@verizon.net) or Alec Humann: [alechumann@msn.com](mailto:alechumann@msn.com)

**Mar. 9: Wednesday.** Program TBD. Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

**Mar. 15 - May 15.** Hamburg Hawk Watch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg (off Camp Road between Routes 5 & 20). Stop by between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting)! Contact Jim Landau (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)).

**Mar. 26: Saturday.** Lake Ontario Plains Field Trip for early migrants. Meet at 8 AM at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport. Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com).



## Buffalo Ornithological Society MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE (1/1/16-12/31/16)

Dear Members,  
 Previously the Society changed its membership dues structure. Individual & family memberships have been combined into one "household" membership. Dues will be \$20 for households receiving the *Prothonotary* via email & \$25 for those who prefer a paper copy mailed to them. This will help defray the rising printing & mailing costs associated with publishing the newsletter.

Please indicate your renewal option:

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 - to receive an email copy of the *Prothonotary*

\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 - to receive a mailed paper copy of the *Prothonotary*

For those who wish to contribute to the Society beyond the renewal amount indicated above:  
 \*\*\*please remember to indicate email or regular mail above\*\*\*

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ - BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE Ever present worker & backbone of the society
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 - WHITE-THROATED SPARROW Always scratching for a little more.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$75 - WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH One that has put something aside for the future
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 - WILD TURKEY A large nest of eggs to give from.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$250 - GREAT HORNED OWL Able to cough up a little more.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 - BALD EAGLE Our national symbol, the top of the raptor world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ - AXTELL/McVEY/WENDLING FUND (provides funding for special research grants and projects)

Checks payable in U.S. Funds to BOS. Please respond by **February 15, 2016** to:

Karen Landau  
 9195 State Road  
 Colden, NY 14033-9626

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(S) \_\_\_\_\_  
 BOS Rare Bird Telephone Hotline already on \_\_\_\_\_ add \_\_\_\_\_ delete \_\_\_\_\_

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 10 October 2015

### THE MONTH: September

*David F. Suggs*

The National Weather Service described September as mostly dry with above normal temperatures. The high for the month was 88 °F occurring on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> and a low of 47 °F on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>. The average maximum and minimum temperatures for the month were 76 °F and 58 °F, both values five degrees above the 30 year norm. After a dry spell early in the month, a stalled low pressure area on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> dropped up to 3 inches of rain on Buffalo and the northern suburbs. Conditions returned to dry until a cold front ended the month with 1.4 inches of rain at the Buffalo Airport. Winds averaged a mild 8 mph, and the peak gust of 39 mph, from the southwest, occurred on September 19<sup>th</sup>.

BOS observers added three new species to the 2015 total during the month of September, increasing the species count to 280. This is slightly below the recent five year average of 284. A juvenile Long-Billed Dowitcher was reported from Woods Marsh at the Tonawanda Wildlife Management Area, Red-necked Phalaropes were reported in mid-September at Tift Nature Preserve and Batavia Wastewater Treatment Plant, and on the last day of the month a Parasitic Jaeger was reported at Lake Ontario near Wilson.

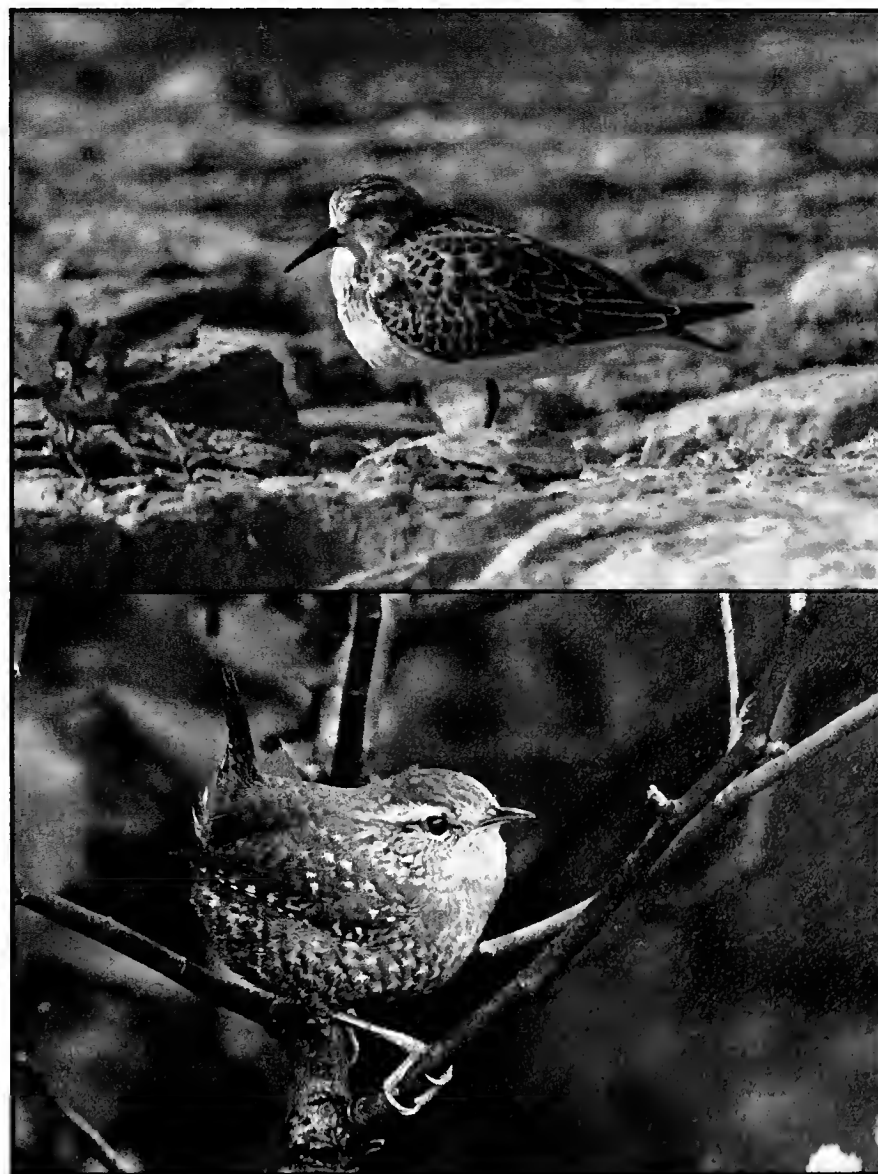
By far the most the abundant species reported this month was the Purple Martin. During a September 5<sup>th</sup> BOS field trip led by Celeste Morien to Buckhorn Island State Park (see field trip report on p. 86), participants witnessed an estimated 30,000 martins swarming the reed covered Sunken Islands in the Niagara River. There are records of massive numbers of Purple Martins in proximity to the Niagara River during August and September. On two dates in August 1998, Shaffner

and Clark reported 83,000 and 50,000 martins at Times Beach Nature Preserve and in 1978 Brownstein reported 35,000 martins at Porter Avenue (LaSalle Park/Black Rock Canal). Other



species in the Noteworthy Records that have occurred in numbers greater than 30,000 are Canada Goose, Greater Scaup, Bonaparte's Gull, Herring Gull, European Starling, Red-winged Blackbird and Common Grackle.

Nineteen shorebird species were included in the September records. Several of these were reported from Lakeside Beach State Park on the Lake Ontario shore during the first half of the month and included



(Top) Baird's Sandpiper photographed by Sue Barth at Lakeside State Park on September 11<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Winter Wren photographed by Sue Barth at Orchard Park on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 79 | <b>The Month</b>                        |  |
|    | <i>David F. Suggs</i>                   |  |
| 81 | <b>From the President's Desk</b>        |  |
|    | <i>Mike Morgante</i>                    |  |
| 82 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>               |  |
|    | <i>Joe Mitchell &amp; Statisticians</i> |  |
| 85 | <b>Tift NP Field Trip Report</b>        |  |
|    | <i>Joe Mitchell</i>                     |  |
| 86 | <b>Purple Martin Trip Report</b>        |  |
|    | <i>Celeste Morien/Alec Humann</i>       |  |
| 86 | <b>Calendar</b>                         |  |

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, S-9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebehazy

**Society Officers:**

President: Michael Morgante  
V. President: David Suggs  
Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
Secretary: Debbie Suggs  
Statisticians: Tim Baird  
Willie D'Anna  
Mike Morgante  
Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

**Council:**

2013-2015	Joseph Fell Michael Galas Lynne Landon
2014-2016	Alec Humann Donna DeLeon Debbie Suggs
2015-2017	Thomas O'Donnell Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney

Willet, Whimbrel, Baird's Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper and Short-billed Dowitcher. These species likely migrate along the Lake Ontario shoreline, but are rarely recorded within sight of the lake. Buff-breasted Sandpipers continued from late August in the fertile sod farms of the Niagara Peninsula of Ontario. Two were reported by Yoerg in Dunnville on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. This species has been found almost annually on the peninsula, but is irregular in the WNY portion of the region. On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, four Buff-breasted Sandpipers in the Genesee County Town of Alabama, found by Morien, were just the seventh record for this county and the nearby refuge areas.

First reported in 2011, an isolated flock of Black Vultures continues to reside near the lower Niagara Gorge in the Village of Lewiston in Niagara County. The gorge should be favorable to breeding for this vulture species, but has yet to be confirmed. Elsewhere in the region, Black Vulture is still a very rare migrant. Gale VerHague verified a migrant on the 27<sup>th</sup> above the Chautauqua Ridge in the Chautauqua County Town of Hanover.

The breeding colony of Clay-colored Sparrows at Krull Park in Olcott was first documented in 2005. Clay-colored Sparrows were also found in July this year in nearby Somerset and at Lakeside Beach SP. A Clay-colored Sparrow from one of these locations lingered into September at Olcott and was verified by Jim Sawusch on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Jim Wodjewodzki had the rare pleasure of hearing the repeated calling of an Eastern Whip-poor-will from a spruce tree in his yard in the Erie County Town of Holland. This occurrence was outside the Verification Date Guide range for the species, and Jim's verified report becomes the tenth September record of the species.

Nine Sandhill Cranes in the Iroquois NWR on the 16<sup>th</sup> were a new maximum for September. Five American Woodcocks on Grand Island on the 17<sup>th</sup> were

the highest count since 20 were recorded in the Southern Tier in September 1975, although birders infrequently conduct counts or submit records for this species. Nineteen warbler species during September included some species that remained through the month, including Tennessee Warbler on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, Northern Parula on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>, and Canada Warbler on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

**References**

DiTommaso, D., Suggs, D., B.O.S. Noteworthy Records Database. 1964-2014

Welch, S., Monthly Weather Summary for September 2015. Buffalo National Weather Service. <http://www.wbuf.noaa.gov/>



(Top to Bottom) Blue-headed Vireo at Lake Erie State Park on September 28<sup>th</sup>, Philadelphia Vireo at Orchard Park on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Eastern Wood-Pewee at Orchard Park on September 22<sup>nd</sup>. All photographs by Sue Barth.

# From the President's Desk: Results of 2015 BOS Members Survey

*Mike Morgante*

Mike Galas and the Council decided it was a good time to survey members on several items that have been discussed at Council meetings in recent years. In late May 2015, the 2015 BOS Members Survey was distributed as ten questions on a Survey Monkey link and Mike also solicited some feedback from several members that do not use computers. The survey was intentionally short to maximize participation and included the following introduction:

"The officers of the Buffalo Ornithological Society would like to improve the society both to increase member satisfaction for existing members and to attract new members. We ask you to take a few minutes to fill out this survey and to share your ideas on how we can improve our society."

I presented the results at the September meeting, but would like to take this opportunity to show the yes and no results. Just as valuable as the yes/no responses were the many comments received, which were not trackable to responder and thus anonymous. A total of 66 responses were received, slightly more than one quarter of current members. According to Mike, this was a much better response than a similar survey conducted in the 1990s.

Many thanks to Mike Galas and Bob Deleon for their efforts in implementing the survey and compiling the results. This input will help the Council and the Officers make us a better organization by helping us grow to meet the needs of our membership.

**(1) Our meetings start at 7 p.m. and need to conclude by 8:45 p.m. as per time constraints at the Museum of Science. Should the starting time be changed to allow more meeting time?**

Yes - 0, No - 47.

While this is a very convincing response, among the 16 comments were suggestions for other times ranging between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. start times and finding more time than the current 7 – 8:45 time period.

**(2) Should BOS conduct at least some meetings away from the museum?**

Yes - 14, No – 23.

Among the 18 comments were several suggestions on other locations, as well as likes and dislikes about attending the meetings at the Museum of Science. We have held the June meeting at Tiff Nature Preserve for many years and it has not been a highly attended meeting.

**(3) Do you think there should be more time for socializing and talking about birds?**

Yes – 34, No – 15.

Among the 10 comments were suggestions to have longer meetings, seek an extension beyond the 8:45 limit at the Museum, and generally to allow more socializing time at each meeting and elsewhere. Perhaps we need a social director volunteer!

**(4) Do we welcome new birders?**

Yes – 24, No – 15.

This question drew the most comments with 27, which were all over the place from suggestions to support for the yes and no thoughts. Some of the comments were historical while others focused on the present and future.

**(5) Should we do more with other organizations like Buffalo Audubon Society, Roger Tory Peterson Institute, The Nature Conservancy, etc.?**

Yes – 43, No – 9.

There were many suggestions among the 21 comments and general support for more collaboration although some felt there isn't a need to do anything more.

**(6) Would you consider running for an Office or becoming a member of the Council?**

Yes – 9, No – 46.

Some of the 12 comments indicated they were already in office, so even more so these results are an indication of how few are interested. I will add that I suspect many members would expect that far more time and effort is involved than really is.

**(7) Would you be interested in doing an article for The Prothonotary?**

Yes – 3, No – 39.

Of the nine comments were some suggestions for articles and content. One commenter indicated that the content is above their ability to contribute. I will respectfully respond that there is room for all to contribute. If you have thoughts on birding locations, birding experiences, historical notes, or any ideas, even if as short as a paragraph, please consider contributing. I prepared a monthly birding quiz c. 2002-2004, which would be a great idea for someone else to pick up. I kept it short and usually learned something while flipping through field guides or historical BOS records to prepare them each month.

**(8) Have you visited the BOS website?**

Yes – 27, No – 15.

Among the 14 comments were many suggestions for additions and improvements. I'm excited about the updating that Sue Barth is doing for our website, some of which is already completed and some is still in the works.

**(9) Would you be willing to lead a field trip either locally or out of town?**

Yes - 3, No – 34.

There were suggestions for trips on the 12 comments, and some thought that they are not experienced enough to lead a trip. Members really like the field trips and most would like to see more, at a minimum of one per month, which we have generally maintained at least one per month. To do this, we need to have leaders and not all leaders need to be as experienced in the field as some of our regular trip leaders.

**(10) Please read the questions and comment on as many areas as possible: How can we improve the membership experience? What can we do to make this a better organization and encourage participation? We have a great newsletter but what could we add to make it even better? What other field trips would you like to see? Do you have any suggestions for future speakers?**

There were 36 comments to these multiple questions which provide some good input. As expected with any survey, some of the comment received are complete opposite viewpoints of other comments expressed. We plan to explore these questions and responses in the coming year and beyond.

## NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Mute Swan	20	7	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Lewis
Trumpeter Swan	20	1	Conewango Swamp WMA	VerHague
Wood Duck	12; 16	200; 102	Batavia WWTP	Lenz et al; Pawlicki
Gadwall	7; 14	25; 25	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal; Beattie
American Wigeon	16; 25	25; 40	Batavia WWTP	Chiu; Beattie
American Black Duck	30	16	Wilson	D'Anna
Blue-winged Teal	6	19	Tifft NP	Humann
"	7; 20	81; 103	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal; Beattie
Northern Shoveler	7; 16	100; 224	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal; Pawlicki
Northern Pintail	30	449	Wilson	D'Anna
Green-winged Teal	13	27	Tifft NP	Mitchell et al (BOS)
"	16	32	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki
Redhead	10-13	2	Tifft Nature Preserve	Hauser et al
"	12; 14; 16	3; 6; 9	Batavia WWTP	Lenz; Beattie; Pawlicki
Ring-necked Duck	25F	3	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Greater Scaup	26F, 30	3, 51	Wilson	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	11F	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
"	22	2	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Surf Scoter	30F	44	Wilson	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	10, 30	9, 8	Wilson	D'Anna
"	26	1	Lewiston Reservoir	Pawlicki
Ruddy Duck	1; 25	10; 34	Batavia WWTP	Tetlow, Sherony; Beattie
Common Loon	10, 30	1, 41	Wilson	D'Anna
"	13	3	Tifft NP	Mitchell et al (BOS)
Horned Grebe	14	1	Batavia WWTP	Thomas
Red-necked Grebe	10, 30	1, 10	Wilson	D'Anna
"	11, 26	2, 1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
"	23	2	Golden Hill SP	Lewis, Barth, Kester, Sweeney
Eared Grebe	1-30	2	Batavia WWTP	Tetlow, Sherony et al
Double-crest. Cormorant	7, 22	1608, 2057	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Least Bittern	10	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Great Egret	10; 19	254; 267	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki; Morien
Black Vulture	13; 19; 26	4; 2; 6	Lewiston	Thomas; Morgante; Pawlicki
"	<u>27</u>	1	Forestville	VerHague
Bald Eagle	10	4	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	13	3	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
Broad-winged Hawk	5	1	Alfred	Brooks
Virginia Rail	7; 14	4; 2	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg; Beattie
"	17	1	Orchard Park	Barth
"	18	1	Times Beach NP	Kerr
Sora	7; 14, 20	2; 4	Batavia WWTP	Yoerg; Beattie
"	12	2	Iroquois NWR	Lenz et al
Common Gallinule	10	61	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	10	1	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr
"	22	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Podoliak
Sandhill Crane	2	3	Alabama	Sawusch
"	7; 14; 16	2; 7; 9	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence; Morien; M. Tetlow

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	10	1	Dunnville, ON	Yoerg
"	19	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Yoerg
Black-bellied Plover	3, 10	18, 14	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg
"	19	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Rose-Burney, Harbison
"	22, 27	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	24	1	Batavia WWTP	R. Guthrie
American Golden-Plover	1-2	1-5	Alabama	Morien et al
"	2; 7	6; 3	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Yoerg
"	10	9	Shelby	Morien
"	20	1	Dayton Gravel Ponds	VerHague
"	27	1	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
Semipalmated Plover	7	14	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	2; 6	13	Lakeside Beach SP	Purcell; Morien, Barth
Killdeer	2	275	Alabama	Humann, Bacher
Solitary Sandpiper	1	1	Lakeside Beach SP	M. Tetlow, Sherony; Harbison
"	29	5	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
Willet	1-2	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Sherony; D'Anna, Potter
Lesser Yellowlegs	2	28	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Whimbrel	11	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Ruddy Turnstone	3	1	Rock Point PP, ON	Yoerg
"	8	1	Point Breeze	Pawlicki
"	12, 13	1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz, Smith
"	27	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki
Sanderling	1	6	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	3	13	Rock Point PP, ON	Yoerg
"	15	10	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	26	1	Point Breeze	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
Semipalmated Sandpiper	2	19	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
Baird's Sandpiper	1	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	1-8	1	Lakeside Beach SP	M. Tetlow et al
"	2	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	2; 12	2; 3	Batavia WWTP	Humann et al
"	10	1	Rock Point PP, ON	Yoerg
Pectoral Sandpiper	2; 7	23; 41	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Lawrence
Stilt Sandpiper	1-11	2-4	Lakeside Beach SP	M. Tetlow et al
"	5	2	Buckhorn Island SP	Morin et al
"	10	4	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell, Morien
Buff-breasted Sandpiper	1-2	3-4	Alabama	Morien et al
"	3	2	Dunnville, Ont.	Yoerg
Short-billed Dowitcher	1-8	1	Lakeside Beach SP	M. Tetlow et al
"	2; 7	1; 2	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Lawrence
* Long-billed Dowitcher	10; 12	1	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki et al; Lenz
American Woodcock	17	5	Grand Island	Humann
* Red-necked Phalarope	14	1	Tift NP	Sharon
"	16; 17	2; 2	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki; Beattie
Little Gull	8	1	Grand Island	Thomas
Lesser Black-backed Gull	8	1	Point Breeze	Pawlicki
"	26	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Black Tern	8	6	Point Breeze	Pawlicki
Common Tern	30	112	Wilson	D'Anna
Forster's Tern	10	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
* Parasitic Jaeger	30	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	20	1	Conewango Swamp WMA	VerHague
"	26	1	Canadaway Creek WMA	VerHague
Black-billed Cuckoo	1	1	Fort Erie, ON	Humann
"	7	1	Canadaway Creek WMA	VerHague
"	12L	1	Buffalo	Seidman
Common Nighthawk	1-17	3-4	Tonawanda	Hess
"	1; 15	3; 5	Grand Island	Thomas; Sharon
"	3	8	Dunnville, ON	Yoerg
"	5	1	Buckhorn Island SP	Morien et al
"	5	2	Niagara Falls	Tom & Sue O'Donnell
"	6	2	Rushford	Morgan
"	6, 15	1, 3	Clarence	Morgante

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	15	2	Delaware Park	Gainey
Eastern Whip-poor-will	<u>3</u>	1	Holland	Wojewodzki
Chimney Swift	6; 8; 25	73; 80; 33	Buffalo	Bacher; Harbison; Humann
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	6	Lake Erie SP	Smith
"	5	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	5	2	Wilson	Giles
"	7	2	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	18	4	Point Breeze	Pawlicki
"	21; 23	3; 2	Point Gratiot	VerHague; Goetz
Merlin	5-30	1	11 Locations	Multiple Observers
Peregrine Falcon	2-26	1	9 Locations	Multiple Observers
Olive-sided Flycatcher	3, 14	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	6	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	9	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	10	1	Tift NP	Sharon
"	24	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Alder/Willow Flycatcher	2	1	Batavia WWTP	Humann, Bacher
"	6	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Barth, Morien
Least Flycatcher	26	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
Eastern Kingbird	14	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Gullo
Yellow-throated Vireo	10L	3	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Warbling Vireo	29	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Philadelphia Vireo	13, 30	4, 1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	27	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Yoerg
Common Raven	3	1	Pomfret	Moshers
Horned Lark	2	46	Alabama	Humann, Bacher
Purple Martin	5	<u>30000</u>	Buckhorn Island SP	Morien et al
Tree Swallow	12	1000	Batavia WWTP	Lenz, Kahle, Goldberg
Northern Rough-w. Swallow	14	40	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Bank Swallow	12L	50	Batavia WWTP	Lenz, Kahle, Goldberg
Cliff Swallow	12L	5	Batavia WWTP	Lenz, Kahle, Goldberg
Barn Swallow	1	82	Buckhorn Island SP	Humann
"	3	80	Batavia WWTP	Beattie
Winter Wren	13F	1	Orchard Park	Barth
"	22	4	Amherst SP	Salembier
Golden-crowned Kinglet	14F	2	Amherst SP	Barth
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3F	1	Reinstein Woods NP	Walraven
Veery	3	2	Grand Island	Humann
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9F	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	10, 21	4, 9	Grand Island	Humann
"	19	2	Tonawanda	Hess
Swainson's Thrush	10, 21	18, 24	Grand Island	Humann
"	13	11	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
"	19	58	Tonawanda	Hess
Wood Thrush	26	1	Batavia	Beattie
American Pipit	24F	4	Shelby	Morien
"	26	2	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
Cedar Waxwing	12	300	Canadaway Creek WMA	VerHague
Ovenbird	26L	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
"	26L	1	Lake Erie SP	Barth
Northern Waterthrush	18L	1	Tift NP	Walraven
Golden-winged Warbler	9	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Blue-winged Warbler	14L	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier; Barth
Black-and-white Warbler	27	1	Buffalo	Rose-Burney
Tennessee Warbler	1	2	West Seneca	Yerkovich
"	30	2	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Nashville Warbler	10	12	Amherst SP	Salembier
Mourning Warbler	1	2	Times Beach	Pawlicki
"	3	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Hooded Warbler	16	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki
"	23	2	Point Gratiot	Goetz
"	27, 30	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Cape May Warbler	18; 21; 22	5	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Sweeney, Kester et al
Northern Parula	1	1	Times Beach	Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>September</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	29	1	Orchard Park	Barth
Bay-breasted Warbler	13	10	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
"	18	8	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Sweeney, Kester
Yellow Warbler	24L	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
Palm Warbler	5F	1	Times Beach	Seidman
Pine Warbler	21	2	Point Gratiot	VerHague
Black-throat. Green Warbler	23	16	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann
Canada Warbler	1	7	Fort Erie, Ont.	Humann
"	20	1	Grand Island	Thomas
Wilson's Warbler	26	1	Buffalo	Kerr
Clay-colored Sparrow	<u>15</u>	1	Olcott	Sawusch
Savannah Sparrow	20, 26	12, 17	Amherst	Pawlicki
Grasshopper Sparrow	8	1	Batavia	Beattie
Lincoln's Sparrow	9F	2	Alfred	Peterson
"	24	3	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	1	Alexander	Beattie
White-throated Sparrow	3	2	Beaver Meadow Audubon	Kerr
"	24	60	Wilson	D'Anna
White-crowned Sparrow	24F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	30	1	Marilla	Holmes
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	25	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Indigo Bunting	26L	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
Bobolink	12	20	Tonawanda WMA	Lenz, Kahle, Goldberg
Red-winged Blackbird	5	475	Buckhorn Island SP	Morien et al
"	10	450	Tonawanda WMA	Pawlicki, Mitchell, Morien
Common Grackle	5	345	Buckhorn Island SP	Morien et al
Baltimore Oriole	13; 20	1; 1	Tifft NP	Mitchell et al (BOS); Sharon
Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year:				277
Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the month:				3
Total for the year (to date) 2015:				<u>280</u>

## BOS field trip to Tifft Nature Preserve

*Joe Mitchell*

The annual BOS fall field trip to Tifft Nature Preserve was held on Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> and turned out to be one of, if not the best, field trips that I have had the pleasure of leading. Twenty participants braved what initially appeared to be a wet, cold, and windy morning of birding. The weather turned for the better allowing for a great day of fall birding and the birds were even better! Altogether, 72 species were tallied with highlights including Scarlet Tanager, Philadelphia Vireo, Baltimore Oriole, Swainson's Thrush, four swallow species, Chimney Swift, Purple Martin, four shorebird species (Semipalmated Plover, Lesser Yellowlegs, Least Sandpiper, and Pectoral Sandpiper), three flyover Common Loons, two Redhead, and at least one representative of every dabbling duck that occurs in WNY.

Eighteen warbler species were seen during the trip and totaled between 50-60 individuals. The majority of these birds were present in a large flock that we had the pleasure of running into more than once. The experience was truly a great one as the birds largely stayed around eye level or below, close to the path, and at times moved close by the group and seemed to flow past us as the flock actively foraged. Highlights were many, with several Black and White, Bay-breasted, Magnolia, Tennessee, and Chestnut-sided Warblers along with at least two each of Northern Parula, Cape May, Black-throated Blue, and Yellow Warblers.

Thank you to all who participated on this great day!



[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)

## Winter Calendar and Announcements

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird:** 716-896-1271

**Bird Hotline:** 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335

**Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog:** <http://bnnatureblog.com/>

**Jan. 13: Wednesday. Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** How do you decide when to go birding? Work and schedule conflicts aside, what if you could evaluate several environmental factors to pick when your best days to go birding are? Dwayne Wood has pondered these questions and developed a birding algorithm to help determine the days with the highest probability of seeing more species. Dwayne will describe the factors and go through some examples in his presentation. It will then be interesting to compare to how we choose our days to go birding.

**Jan. 16 (2-5PM): Saturday. St. Maximilian Kolbe Hall, 8656 Church Street, East Pembroke. NY. A Celebration of Life, In loving memory of Gail Webb Seamans.** The family would like to invite you to celebrate the life of Gail Seamans. Bring your old memories to share.

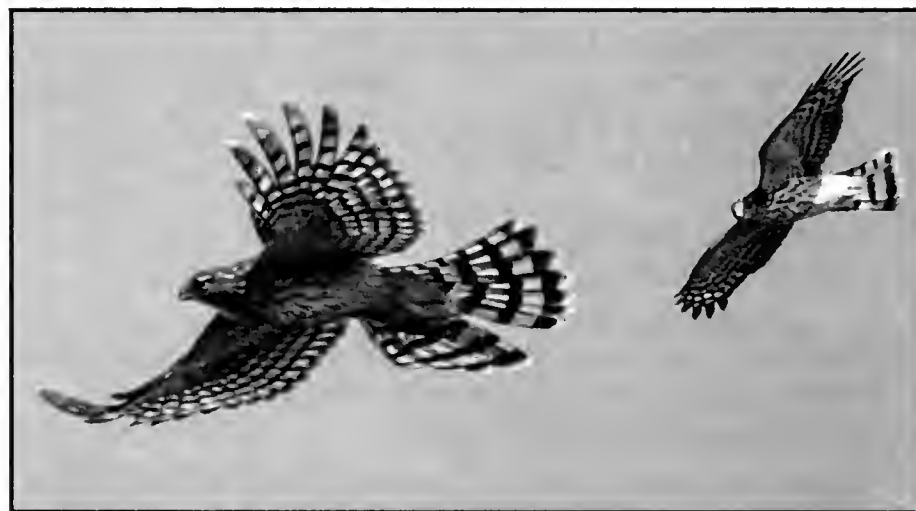
**Jan. 17: Sunday. January Waterfowl Count and Mid-winter Bald Eagle Survey.** The count window is from Jan. 16-24. However, counters are urged to use the target date of Sunday, Jan 17 if at all possible (weather permitting). Contact the compiler for info or questions: Jim Landau at 716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com).

**Jan. 17: Sunday. Half day Field Trip to Goat Island.** Meet 8AM at the parking lot for Three Sisters Island. We will start at Goat Island and will finish up at the Waterfowl Viewing Area along the Robert Moses Parkway. The field trip will be led by Chris Kundl. (Contact info: [ckundl13@gmail.com](mailto:ckundl13@gmail.com)).

**CANCELLED Jan. 30: Saturday. Half day field Trip to Dunkirk Harbor.** Meet 8 AM at the main pier parking lot. The field trip will be led by Gale VerHague.

**Feb. 10: Wednesday. Rarity Roundup Presentation. Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.** A slideshow of photos and stories will be presented by BOS members that will include some of the rarities seen in the BOS study area in 2015! If you have photos and stories of any rarities you saw in 2015, please email the photo(s) to Sue Barth: [suebarth@verizon.net](mailto:suebarth@verizon.net) or Alec Humann: [alechumann@msn.com](mailto:alechumann@msn.com)

**Mar. 15 - May 15. Hamburg Hawk Watch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg** (off Camp Road between Routes 5 & 20). Stop by between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting)! Contact Jim Landau (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)).



**Sharp-shinned Hawk harassing Cooper's Hawk at Orchard Park on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Photograph by Sue Barth.**

## Purple Martin Field Trip to Grass Island/ Niagara River

Celeste Morien and Alec Humann

The Buffalo Ornithological Society/New York State Purple Martin Project joint field trip led by Celeste Morien and Alec Humann was held Saturday evening at Buckhorn Island State Park, and to everyone's delight, the martins put on a truly spectacular show! Connie Adams from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation estimated the Purple Martin numbers at 33,000-35,000 birds. Saying this was quite a sight is quite an understatement! We would encourage anyone who wasn't able to attend tonight to get out to Buckhorn Island to view the Important Bird Area known as the Grass Island to see the swirling mass of martins in action as they come to roost. If you can, go before the birds depart for the Amazon River basin. If you have them, binoculars and a scope are helpful. The Grass Island is located in the Niagara River west of the boat marina on East-West Road.

The thirty-two field trip attendees were also treated to seeing an Osprey, a Common Nighthawk, a Merlin racing toward the Grass Island for a meal, an American Woodcock that startled us by practically joining the field trip, Common Grackle and Red-winged Blackbird flocks, Pied-billed Grebes, Mallards, Canada Geese, Cedar Waxwings, American Goldfinches, Barn Swallows, a Chimney Swift, a (beautiful to Bill) Double-crested Cormorant, flyby Lesser Yellowlegs and a sandpiper sp., Wood Ducks and a bat flyby. Some of the bird sightings were made by new young birders, which was especially gratifying. We want to thank Connie Adams and all the attendees for making our field trip a resounding success!

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 11 November 2015

THE MONTH: October

David Gordon

For a month enjoyed by many for the fall harvest and colorful foliage, October is for birders a last look at the season's migrants and nonresident nesters and a first look at those visiting for the winter. Not unlike the Grand Hotel, this month saw thirty-seven species check out of Western New York and thirteen species check in. A few birds that were cited for late checkout times, and others, strange to the region, needed security (in the form of verification reports) to confirm their identity. This month five other birds made their first appearance of the year and through October, in our region, there were 285 species reported in 2015.

The Buffalo office of the National Weather Service summarized the weather as "overall a pleasant October with brief interruptions of colder and windier conditions". The most significant interruption was the Hurricane Patricia inspired rain and wind of the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> that brought 2" of rainfall and damaging wind. Southeasterly gusts to 46 mph at the Buffalo airport and to 62 mph at the Dunkirk airport were reported on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The next day, the wind shifted to the southwest producing 61 mph winds along the Lake Erie shore causing a seiche that raised the water level "to 82 inches above low water datum". A brief cold period from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> ended our growing season and provided solid precipitation of a trace at the Buffalo airport and a few inches in the hills to the south. Additional info on the weather for the month, can be seen in detail at <http://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=buf>

The star bird of the month was an adult female Rufous/Allen's hummingbird sighted by Julie and Walt Heilman at their residence in the Town of Poland, Chautauqua County. They had set out their feeder with fresh nectar in late September and a few days later noticed the different hummingbird. The bird visited their yard daily and was present on October count day and for its formal verification by Jim Berry on the 15<sup>th</sup>. He

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 87 | <b>The Month</b>                        | noted that the bird was too modest for the needed examination of the tail feathers to confirm the species |
|    | <i>David Gordon</i>                     |   |
| 89 | <b>Noteworthy Records</b>               |   |
|    | <i>Joe Mitchell &amp; Statisticians</i> |   |
| 93 | <b>October Count 2015</b>               |   |
|    | <i>Marcie Jacklin</i>                   |   |
| 98 | <b>Calendar</b>                         |   |



(Top) Bank Swallow photographed by Jim Pawlicki at Batavia WWTP on October 18<sup>th</sup> and (Middle and Bottom) a Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird photographed by Sue Fairbanks and Sue Barth at Kennedy, NY, Town of Poland, Chautauqua County on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> respectively.

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebchazy

#### Society Officers:

President: Michael Morgante  
V. President: David Suggs  
Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
Secretary: Debbie Suggs  
Statisticians: Willie D'Anna  
Alec Humann  
Mike Morgante  
Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
Archivist: Audrey Horbett

#### Council:

2014-2016	Alec Humann Donna DeLeon Debbie Suggs
2015-2017	Thomas O'Donnell Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney
2016-2018	Sue Barth David Gordon David Suggs

designation definitively so it is recorded as a *Selasphorus* species. They seem to know our count dates well as a *Selasphorus* species was last seen in our region during the 2015 April count when an adult male Rufous Hummingbird was sighted in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Willie D'Anna reported sighting a female Common/King Eider on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. The bird was flying along Lake Ontario, off Rt. 425 in Wilson, with two White-winged Scoters and three Red-necked Grebes. Willie stated that the bird appeared to be larger than the scoters. This would indicate a Common Eider as King Eider, though a little stockier, are similar in size to white-

winged. The plumage was brown but other indicators such as belly color and head shape could not be gathered conclusively. The eider species pair further confounded Willie as another eider, also flying with white-winged escort, was seen the very next day while on the BOS field trip he was leading! Dean DiTommaso noted the bird and alerted Willie. He saw the bird briefly but long enough to notice relative size, brown coloration, and lack of white wing patches. Both Dean and Willie were sure this was a King Eider. These birds landed on the choppy Lake Ontario water and though the group searched, they were lost to view thereafter. If birding was easy, it would not be any fun.

Jim Pawlicki saw a Summer Tanager, another rarity to the area, in Forest Lawn Cemetery on the 17<sup>th</sup>. In what he describes as a brief view, he noted that it was "about same size and similar shape to a female-type Scarlet Tanager, but with larger/thicker olive-colored bill, slight crested appearance, longer tail, and brighter, more uniform plumage. Its face and under parts were bright mustard-yellow with slightly darker olive-yellow upper parts and tail". Whew !!!! Law enforcement should have such observational skill! As is often the case with this species, it was only seen this once. Jim also first located a Nelson's sparrow at Amherst State Park on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. This bird continued there for two days and was reported again by Richard Salembier on the 5<sup>th</sup>. He noted that it was associated with Swamp

Sparrows and described its features as "head and breast orange-buff; gray crown, nape, and cheek patch; blurry, brown, diffuse streaking on back and breast, crisper and more reddish-brown down sides and flanks; clean white belly neatly divided from its orange-buff breast; showed a broad orange-buff supercilium". Those who appreciate sparrows and were fortunate to view this bird enjoyed a visual treat!

October's other birds of note include a late season cuckoo double. A Black-billed Cuckoo, seen by Heather Lynn Desorcie at Forest Lawn on the 13<sup>th</sup>, and a tardy Yellow-billed Cuckoo, seen by Jerry Anderson at Tifft on the 31<sup>st</sup> were reported and photographed. Other tardy birds included a Warbling Vireo seen by Sue Barth at Tifft on the 8<sup>th</sup> and an Eastern Kingbird seen by Rick Thornton on the 10<sup>th</sup> along Twentymile Creek in Vineland, Ontario. Finally, Jim Landau found the rarely seen "Oregon" Dark-eyed Junco on the 27<sup>th</sup> in Colden that is likely the same bird that has appeared in his yard in recent winters.

This past October was a great month for birding. If you were not able to get out as much as you would have liked, I hope this article will encourage you to make the time to get out next year to see the birds along with the foliage. Take part in the October count also as it is a fine BOS tradition that should continue and be supported. As always, I appreciate this opportunity to share this information.



(Top) Yellow-billed Cuckoo photographed by Jerry Anderson at Tifft Nature Preserve on October 31<sup>st</sup> and (Bottom) Black-billed Cuckoo photographed by Heather Lynn Desorcie at Forest Lawn Cemetery on October 13<sup>th</sup>.

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fronted Goose	4F, 6; 7	1	Port Colborne, Ont.	B&J Farnan et al; Jacklin
"	25	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Miles
Snow Goose	2F	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
"	5, 6	2	Port Colborne, Ont.	B&J Farnan et al
"	13	2	Hanover	VerHague
"	24	4	Lyndonville	D'Anna et al (BOS)
Brant	8F	7	Wilson	D'Anna
Cackling Goose	6F, 8	1, 2	Port Colborne, Ont.	B&J Farnan, Jacklin
"	12	1	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna
"	25	9	Gypsum Pond	Pawlicki
Mute Swan	1; 26	6	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	Harbison; D'Anna
"	12; 31	8; 7	Point Breeze	D'Anna; Lawrence
Tundra Swan	17	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Jacklin, Seburn
"	24	6	Yates	Weber
"	25	5	Mayville	Smith
Wood Duck	5	72	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	6	196	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki
"	22	250	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
Gadwall	15	34	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	23	80	Tifft NP	Sharon
American Wigeon	22	350	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
American Black Duck	21	23	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Barth
Blue-winged Teal	8; 30	22; 3	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence; Horsey
Northern Shoveler	15; 25	314; 298	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence; Pawlicki, Mitchell
Northern Pintail	8, 18	93, 131	Wilson	D'Anna
"	21	630	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Barth
Green-winged Teal	21	302	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Barth
Canvasback	7F	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Redhead	8	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	17	8	Batavia WWTP	Horsey
"	20	48	Burtis Bay	Simmons
Ring-necked Duck	21	70	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Barth
Greater Scaup	16	56	Wilson	D'Anna
Lesser Scaup	16	13	Wilson	D'Anna
King Eider	<u>24</u> F	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna et al (BOS)
Common/King Eider	<u>23</u>	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Surf Scoter	1	9	Wilson	D'Anna
"	13	38	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	20	59	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki
White-winged Scoter	17	261	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	18	267	Wilson	D'Anna
Black Scoter	17F	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	20	21	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	23	2	Wilson	D'Anna
"	31	3	Fort Erie, Ont.	Jacklin, Goodridge, BonEnfant
Long-tailed Duck	25, 31	127, 326	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	120	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Bufflehead	29	85	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki
Common Goldeneye	30	76	Wilson	D'Anna
Red-breasted Merganser	22	300	Sheridan	VerHague
"	30	693	Wilson	D'Anna
Ruddy Duck	18; 27	434; 509	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki; Lawrence
"	23	11	Dayton Gravel Ponds	VerHague
"	24	65	Findlay Lake	R&D Rosche
"	29	4	Cuba Lake	Gregory, Casey
Red-throated Loon	10F, 25	1, 16	Wilson	D'Anna
Common Loon	31	166	Wilson	D'Anna
Horned Grebe	17	171	Fort Erie, Ont.	Jacklin
"	31	29	Wilson	D'Anna
Red-necked Grebe	8, 23	21, 105	Wilson	D'Anna
"	22	5	Sheridan	VerHague
Eared Grebe	4-31	1-2	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki et al
"	29	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Holden, Keaveney
Double-crest. Cormorant	14	450	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	20	2600	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
American Bittern	6	1	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
Great Egret	6	76	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki
"	21	2	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Barth
"	24	1	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
Cattle Egret	25	1	West Lincoln, Ont.	Smith
Green Heron	23L	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Black Vulture	15	2	Joseph Davis SP	D'Anna
"	30; 31	2; 6	Lewiston	M&S Galas; Harbison
Osprey	19	1	Iroquois NWR	Landau
"	19	1	Almond	Daniels
Virginia Rail	8	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Sora	18L	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki
Common Gallinule	24L	1	Iroquois NWR	Sucy
American Coot	20	261	Burtis Bay	Simmons
"	25	200	Mayville	Smith
Sandhill Crane	6	7	Oak Orchard WMA	Pawlicki
"	13; 17; 19	7	Iroquois NWR	Harbison; Humann; J&K Landau
Black-bellied Plover	2, 3	2, 1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
"	17	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	23	1	Dayton Gravel Ponds	VerHague
American Golden-Plover	4	1	Amherst	Pawlicki
"	27L	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Semipalmated Plover	12	7	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna
"	17L	1	Batavia WWTP	Sucy
Solitary Sandpiper	6L	1	Grand Island	Humann
Greater Yellowlegs	21; 25	7; 2	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Barth; Pawlicki
"	27	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Lesser Yellowlegs	17L	2	Batavia WWTP	Consler
Sanderling	12	1	Point Breeze	D'Anna
"	19	2	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague; Goetz
"	25	1	Woodlawn Beach SP	Gullo
Semipalmated Sandpiper	17L	1	Batavia WWTP	Consler; Horsey
Least Sandpiper	25L	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
White-rumped Sandpiper	6	4	Iroquois NWR	Pawlicki
"	8, 16	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	12; 13; 14	4; 3; 2	Lakeside Beach SP	D'Anna; Harbison; Morien
"	27	3	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
Pectoral Sandpiper	17	4	Gypsum Pond	Sucy
"	24	5	Findlay Lake	R&D Rosche
* Purple Sandpiper	30F	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Dunlin	25	1	Fort Niagara SP	Yoerg
"	25; 31	8; 1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Mitchell
American Woodcock	25	2	Forestville	VerHague
* Red Phalarope	29	2	Unity (Squaw) Island	Pawlicki
"	29	4	Fort Erie, Ont.	Holden et al
Red-necked/Red Phalarope	29	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki; D'Anna, Barth

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
* Black-legged Kittiwake	20	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
* Sabine's Gull	29	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	29	1	Niagara Falls	Potter, D'Anna
Bonaparte's Gull	29	2000	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki
Little Gull	29	9	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	29	9	Fort Erie, Ont.	Holden
"	31	2	Wilson	D'Anna
* Franklin's Gull	15	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
Herring Gull	9	600	Cuba Lake	Lenz
Lesser Black-backed Gull	3	3	Goat Island	Pawlicki
"	9	11	Cuba Lake	Lenz
"	22	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
Common Tern	6	27	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
"	7, 15	47, 26	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Forster's Tern	7	1	Fort Niagara SP	D'Anna
Parasitic Jaeger	2	3	Port Weller, Ont.	Renaud
"	15	1	Buffalo Harbor	Pawlicki
"	14, 23	1, 1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Vandermeulen
"	25	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	29	1	Hamburg	Pawlicki
"	29	3	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, D'Anna, Barth
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	11	1	Sheridan	VerHague
"	<u>31L</u>	1	Tifft NP	Anderson
Black-billed Cuckoo	<u>13L</u>	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Desorcie, Frantz
Barred Owl	12	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	White
Northern Saw-whet Owl	10	1 banded	Wethersfield	Junkin
Chimney Swift	9	60	Medina	Pawlicki
"	8; 14	12; 5	Amherst SP	Barton; Pawlicki, Salembier
"	20L	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
Ruby-thr. Hummingbird	3	1	Grand Island	Humann
"	6L	1	Amherst	Salembier
<u>Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird</u>	1-18	1	Poland	Heilman, Fairbanks; Berry
Red-headed Woodpecker	4; 17	2; 1	Point Gratiot	Goetz; VerHague
"	14	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Harbison
"	14	1	Erie Basin Marina	Seidmann
"	15, 16	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Northern Flicker	4	31	Amherst SP	D'Anna et al
Merlin	1, 7	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
"	4, 18, 22	1	Sheridan	VerHague
"	6	2	Iroquois NWR	Gerber
"	20	1	Devils Hole SP	D'Anna
"	20	1	LaSalle Park, Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	22	1	Tonawanda WMA	Wasilco
Peregrine Falcon	1-30	1-2	Reports from 10 Locations	Multiple Observers
Eastern Wood-Pewee	13L	1	Wales	Rose-Burney
Eastern Phoebe	30	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Eastern Kingbird	10L	1	Vineland, Ont.	Thornton
Northern Shrike	21F; 24	1	Shelby	Morien; Sucy, Thomas
Blue-headed Vireo	25	1	Tifft NP	Ewing
Warbling Vireo	1	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
"	<u>8L</u>	1	Tifft NP	Barth
Red-eyed Vireo	20L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Common Raven	23; 25	1	Pembroke	Morgante; A. Guthrie
Tree Swallow	15	450	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
Northern Rough-w. Swallow	3	1055	Goat Island	Pawlicki
"	29	4	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Best
Bank Swallow	4, <u>18L</u>	1, 1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki
Cliff Swallow	4L	1	Batavia WWTP	Pawlicki, Mitchell
House Wren	17L	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki; Yoerg
"	17L	1	Beaver Island SP	Sharon
Marsh Wren	21	10	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Barth
"	25	1	Tifft NP	Seidman
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1, 5	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	2, 7	1 banded	Lewiston	Gleason

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Swainson's Thrush	17L	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
"	17L	1	Amherst	Salembier
Gray Catbird	25	1	Tifft NP	Seidman
Brown Thrasher	8L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
American Pipit	11	12	Sheridan	VerHague
"	17	11	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna
"	21	11	Batavia	Beattie
"	26	15	Wilson	D'Anna
Snow Bunting	27F, 30, 31	1; 3; 3	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence; Horsey; Mitchell
"	30	7	Barcelona Harbor	Vanstrom
"	31	8	Point Breeze	Lawrence
Ovenbird	1	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Humann
"	14	1	Adam Beck, Ont.	Vandermeulen
"	23L	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Tennessee Warbler	14L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Orange-crowned Warbler	8	1	Forestville	VerHague
Nashville Warbler	17L	2	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
American Redstart	18L	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Jacklin, BonEnfant
Cape May Warbler	1	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	11L	1	Wilson	D'Anna
Northern Parula	24L	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki, Seidman
Magnolia Warbler	23L	1	Lancaster	Morgante
Bay-breasted Warbler	1	1	Tifft NP	Sharon
Blackburnian Warbler	4L	1	Tillman Road WMA	Gerber
Chestnut-sided Warbler	20L	1	Cassadaga	VerHague
Blackpoll Warbler	18L	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Jacklin, BonEnfant
Black-throated Blue Warbler	2; 8	5; 1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier; Salembier
Palm Warbler	18L	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Humann, Harbison
Pine Warbler	4	1	Amherst SP	D'Anna, Potter
"	18	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Jacklin, BonEnfant
Black-throat. Green Warbler	30L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
Wilson's Warbler	3	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki
American Tree Sparrow	24F	2	Yates	D'Anna et al (BOS)
Clay-colored Sparrow	11	1	Sheridan	VerHague
"	22	1	Port Weller, Ont.	Vandermeulen
Savannah Sparrow	26	1	Wilson	D'Anna
* Nelson's Sparrow	3-5	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki et al
Fox Sparrow	24	9	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
Lincoln's Sparrow	14L	1	Amherst SP	Salembier
<u>Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)</u>	27	1	Colden	J&K Landau
<u>Summer Tanager</u>	17	1	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
Scarlet Tanager	1	2	Amherst SP	Salembier
"	2	1	Point Abino, Ont.	Williams, Merritt
"	4L	1	Allegany SP	Rose-Burney
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	4	1	Amherst SP	D'Anna, Barth
Rusty Blackbird	3F	2	Buckhorn I. SP	Harris
"	21	350	Iroquois NWR	Morien, Barth
Common Grackle	30	325	Dunkirk Airport	VerHague
Pine Siskin	20	48	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Pawlicki
"	24	800	Barker	D'Anna et al (BOS)

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year:	280
Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the month:	5
Total for the year (to date) 2015:	<b>285</b>

# Report of the 80<sup>h</sup> Annual B.O.S. October Bird Count

Date: October 10, 2015

Compiler: Marcie Jacklin

## Weather Synopsis provided by Willie D'Anna

The temperature on count day was just slightly below average and winds were light and variable, becoming southerly in the afternoon. Daytime skies ranged from scattered clouds to mostly cloudy and the day was dry throughout. Overall, conditions were quite good for folks to get out and count birds.

## Greater Buffalo International Airport

This daily weather summary was compiled from Weather Underground at [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com).

Sunrise: 7:22 AM EDT

Sunset: 6:41 PM EDT

Time	Weather	Temp	Dew Pt	Pressure	Dir/Wind	Remarks
Mid-night	Clear	48F	42F	30.13in	WNW6	
3:00 am	Partly Cloudy	45	41	30.14	Calm	
6:00 am	Scattered Clds	43	39	30.18	Calm	
9:00 am	Mostly Cloudy	44	42	30.21	ENE4	
Noon	Scattered Clds	55	40	30.20	Calm	
3:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	58	41	30.12	SSW9	
6:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	56	41	30.07	WSW10	
9:00 pm	Mostly Cloudy	50	42	30.04	S6	
Mid-night	Mostly Cloudy	49	43	29.99	SSW8	

**Compilation:** The following is a list of species recorded on the count together with the number of individuals tabulated. Boldface names indicate species for which acceptable written verifications were received. **F** represents first and **L** last dates for the fall migration, \* first date for the year. Where a species was recorded in three or fewer sections, the section numbers are given in parentheses ( ).

## GEESE – HERONS

Snow Goose	7	(3,13,18)	Hooded Merganser	12	
Canada Goose	22518		Common Merganser	275	
Mute Swan	41		Red-breasted Merganser	66	
Tundra Swan	F 2	(23)	Ruddy Duck	269	(13)
Wood Duck	266		Unspecified duck	1	(2)
Gadwall	30		Unspecified waterfowl	1239	(10,17)
American Wigeon	62		Ring-necked Pheasant	5	(3,18,28)
American Black Duck	55		Ruffed Grouse	12	
Mallard	1331		Wild Turkey	92	
Blue-winged Teal	21		Red-throated Loon	F 2	(2,3)
Northern Shoveler	222	(10,13,18)	Common Loon	23	
Northern Pintail	8		Pied-billed Grebe	58	
Green-winged Teal	102		Horned Grebe	81	
Canvasback	2	(9)	Red-necked Grebe	11	(3,20)
Redhead	4	(3)	Eared Grebe	2	(13)
Ring-necked Duck	22		Grebe species	1	(20)
Greater Scaup	4	(2,3,20)	Double-crested Cormorant	3717	
Surf Scoter	45	(8,11)	Great Blue Heron	90	
White-winged Scoter	30	(3,9,11)	Great Egret	47	(5,10,11)
Long-tailed Duck	13	(8,11)	Green Heron	3	(2,4,22)
Bufflehead	F 7	(23)	Black-crowned Night-Heron	21	(9)
Common Goldeneye	F 13	(2,11)			

## VULTURES - CRANES

Black Vulture	1	(3)
Turkey Vulture	506	
Osprey	5	
Bald Eagle	24	
Northern Harrier	15	
Sharp-shinned Hawk	11	
Cooper's Hawk	17	
Unspecified accipiters	1	(20)

Red-shouldered Hawk	14	
Broad-winged Hawk	L 1	(15)
Red-tailed Hawk	162	
Unspecified hawk	1	(20)
Sora	3	(11,13)
Common Gallinule	4	(10)
American Coot	203	
Sandhill Crane	15	(5,6,10)

## PLOVERS - JAEGER

Black-bellied Plover	2	(3)
American Golden Plover	2	(3)
Semipalmated Plover	2	(22)
Killdeer	218	
Spotted Sandpiper	L 1	(3)
Greater Yellowlegs	4	(8,18,22)
Lesser Yellowlegs	7	(2,17,22)
Least Sandpiper	3	(2,13)
White-rumped Sandpiper	2	(2,3)
Dunlin	1	(3)

Wilson's Snipe	6	(22)
Bonaparte's Gull	696	
Ring-billed Gull	7547	
Herring Gull	4322	
Lesser Black-backed Gull	4	(9,11)
Great Black-backed Gull	11	
Unspecified gulls	70	
Caspian Tern	L 2	(9)
Common Tern	8	(3,6,9)

## PIGEONS - SWALLOWS

Rock Pigeon	1758	
Mourning Dove	790	
Eastern Screech-Owl	9	
Great Horned Owl	8	(1,3,13)
Barred Owl	5	
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	(15)
Chimney Swift	8	(9,10,11)
<b>Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird</b>	1	(23)
Belted Kingfisher	27	
Red-headed Woodpecker	3	(20)
Red-bellied Woodpecker	161	
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	18	
Downy Woodpecker	259	
Hairy Woodpecker	87	
Northern Flicker	121	
Pileated Woodpecker	18	

American Kestrel	17	
Merlin	3	(3,11)
Peregrine Falcon	2	(2,9)
Eastern Wood-Pewee	3	(4,21)
Eastern Phoebe	48	
<b>Eastern Kingbird</b>	L 1	(1)
Blue-headed Vireo	15	
Philadelphia Vireo	L 1	(1)
Red-eyed Vireo	1	(11)
Blue Jay	1353	
American Crow	1945	
Unspecified crow	35	(22)
Common Raven	19	
Horned Lark	95	
Tree Swallow	42	
N. Rough-winged Swallow	19	(2,9,12)

## TITS - WAXWINGS

Black-capped Chickadee	1026	
Tufted Titmouse	90	
Red-breasted Nuthatch	36	
White-breasted Nuthatch	263	
Brown Creeper	22	
House Wren	1	(11)
Winter Wren	21	
Marsh Wren	4	(13, 23)
Carolina Wren	12	
Golden-crowned Kinglet	243	
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	393	

Eastern Bluebird	210	
Gray-cheeked Thrush	L 1	(2)
Swainson's Thrush	5	(2,3,10)
Hermit Thrush	62	
American Robin	1637	
Gray Catbird	52	
Northern Mockingbird	15	
European Starling	17587	
American Pipit	8	(3)
Cedar Waxwing	579	

## WARBLERS - HOUSE SPARROWS

Black-and-white Warbler	L	1	(11)	Song Sparrow	491
Tennessee Warbler		4	(1,9,13)	Lincoln's Sparrow	5
Orange-crowned Warbler	L	3	(3,9,22)	Swamp Sparrow	82
Nashville Warbler		5		White-throated Sparrow	926
Common Yellowthroat	L	2	(12,22)	White-crowned Sparrow	197
Magnolia Warbler		1	(9)	Dark-eyed Junco	745
Bay-breasted Warbler	L	2	(3,9)	Unspecified Sparrow	111
Blackpoll Warbler		3	(15,22)	Northern Cardinal	294
Black-throated Blue Warbler	L	1	(9)	Indigo Bunting	L 1 (1)
Palm Warbler		5		Red-winged Blackbird	4387
Pine Warbler		2	(11,23)	Eastern Meadowlark	37
Yellow-rumped Warbler		675		Rusty Blackbird	102
Black-throated Green Warb.		5	(2,9,11)	Common Grackle	498
Wilson's Warbler	L	2	(21)	Brown-headed Cowbird	229
Unspecified warbler		9		Unspecified blackbird	53 (8)
Eastern Towhee		38		Purple Finch	39
American Tree Sparrow		20	(4,13,15)	House Finch	180
Chipping Sparrow		192		Pine Siskin	163
Field Sparrow		35		American Goldfinch	1125
Vesper Sparrow	L	1	(13)	House Sparrow	1252
Savannah Sparrow		19		Unspecified birds	85
Fox Sparrow	F	2	(20)		

**Summary Information** –Total Species Observed .....**163**  
Total Individual Birds Observed .....**85895**

**Comparisons** – Associated charts, available from Marcie Jacklin, give comparative summary information for the most recent decade, for the full 80 counts and decade by decade since 1935. A chart listing totals for each species per section for the 2015 count is also available. In addition the following notes are of interest:

### RECORDS:

**First count record:** Rufous/Allen's Hummingbird.  
**Second count record:** none.  
**Third count record:** none.  
**First decade record:** Eastern Kingbird.  
**Second decade record:** none.  
**Third decade record:** White-rumped Sandpiper.

### INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 1935:

**Highest count since 1935 (x the average):** Sandhill Crane 15 (15x). *Total of 1.*  
**Lowest count since 1935 (% of the average):** None.

### INDIVIDUAL SPECIES SINCE 2006:

**Highest count in past decade (x the average):** Red-necked Grebe 11 (2.8x); Eared Grebe 2 (2x); Black-crowned Night-heron 21 (4.2x); Osprey 5 (1.3x); Red-shouldered Hawk 14 (2.0x); Common Gallinule 4 (4x); Sandhill Crane 15 (3.8x); Eastern Kingbird 1; Blue-headed Vireo 15 (1.7x); Philadelphia Vireo 1; Tennessee Warbler 4 (2x); Bay-breasted Warbler 2 (2x); Black-throated Green Warbler 5 (2.5); Wilson's Warbler 2 (2x); American Tree Sparrow 20 (3.3x). *Total of 15.*

**Lowest count in past decade (% of the average):** Cooper's Hawk 17 (70.8%); Brown Creeper 22 (62.8%).  
*Total of 2.*

## SIGNIFICANT POPULATION INCREASES AND DECREASES, DECADE 1966-1975 TO DECADE 2006-2015:

This report continues a change in the analysis of population change. Prior to 1966 the number of observers on these counts was fairly stable at around 150. In 1966 the Lake Erie Bird Club of Dunkirk, the Cattaraugus Bird Club, the Allegany Bird Club and the Jamestown Audubon Society began participating in the counts and the number of observers increased to approximately 250 where it has remained ever since. Given this stable number of observers it may be more revealing to compare population changes from the decade starting in 1966 to the current decade, rather than the entire count period to the current decade, as was done in the past. And to make this comparison more scientifically meaningful t-testing has been used to compare the birds observed in the two ten year periods in order to determine if there has been a statistically significant change in the population of each recorded species. Those species whose population totals are statistically significantly different at the 95% confidence level are listed below.

**INCREASES:** *The numbers shown indicate the multiple by which the decade averages have increased except when no sightings occurred in the first decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

Cackling Goose (26/0); Canada Goose, 3.5x; Mute Swan, (403/0); Gadwall, 5.0x; Mallard, 1.6x; Northern Shoveler, 24.6x; Ring-necked Duck, 6.7x; Hooded Merganser, 5.3x; Common Merganser, 14.6x; Red-breasted Merganser 6.7x; Ruddy Duck, 15.6x; Wild Turkey 4.6x; Red-throated Loon (30/0); Common Loon, 46.2x; Red-necked Grebe, 20x; Eared Grebe (8/0); Double-crested Cormorant, 3757x; Great Egret, (279/0); Turkey Vulture, 16.8x; Bald Eagle, 74x; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 2.6x; Cooper's Hawk, 3x; Red-tailed Hawk, 1.5x; Ring-billed Gull, 1.7x; Lesser Black-backed Gull, (24/0); Rock Pigeon, 2.1x; Mourning Dove 4.6x; Eastern Screech Owl, 1.8x; Barred Owl, 2.4x; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 40.2x; Pileated Woodpecker, 3.7x; Merlin, 12.5x; Peregrine Falcon, 20x; Common Raven, (228/0); Tufted Titmouse, 13.3x; Carolina Wren, 6.7x; Eastern Bluebird, 2.3x; Northern Mockingbird, 3.6x; Pine Warbler 20.5x; Northern Cardinal, 1.5x; House Finch, 157.2x. *Total =41 species.*

**DECREASES:** *The numbers shown indicate the percentage to which the averages have decreased to except when no sightings occurred in the last decade, in which case the numbers in parenthesis indicate the total number observed in each of the two decades:*

American Wigeon, 26.6%; American Black Duck, 21.8%; Ring-necked Pheasant, 10.2%; Ruffed Grouse, 28.9%; Green Heron, 53.8%; Northern Harrier, 61.9%; Broad-winged Hawk, 20.5%; Common Gallinule, 9.9%; Spotted Sandpiper, 31.9%; Sanderling, 24.9%; Dunlin, 15.1%; Wilson's Snipe, 27.5%; American Woodcock, 13.2%; Great Black-backed Gull, 49.8%; Common Nighthawk, (14/0); Belted Kingfisher, 57.1%; Red-headed Woodpecker, 24.5%; Northern Flicker, 64.5%; American Kestrel, 41.7%; Eastern Phoebe, 63.9%; House Wren, 28.8%; Swainson's Thrush, 31.4%; Wood Thrush, 27.1%; American Robin, 47.8%; Gray Catbird, 54.9%; Brown Thrasher, 12.9%; European Starling, 70.7%; Black-and-white Warbler, 30.3%; Nashville Warbler, 41.5%; American Redstart, 13%; Cape May Warbler, 12.9%; Magnolia Warbler, 5.9%; Bay-breasted Warbler, 10.3%; Blackburnian Warbler, 3.4%; Chestnut-sided Warbler, 6.9%; Palm Warbler, 25.2%; Black-throated Green Warbler, 15.7%; Wilson's Warbler, 12.2%; Eastern Towhee, 28.7%; Field Sparrow, 28%; Vesper Sparrow, 1.4%; Savannah Sparrow, 23.7%; Fox Sparrow, 44.8%; Song Sparrow, 40.7%; White-throated Sparrow, 51.8%; Dark-eyed Junco, 39.1%; Rose-breasted Grosbeak, 14.7%; Red-winged Blackbird, 35.8%; Eastern Meadowlark, 10.4%; Brown-headed Cowbird, 51.8%; American Goldfinch, 46.8%; House Sparrow, 35.3%. *Total =52 species*

**Sections and Observers:** Names of section compilers are in boldface.

1. Fonthill, ON: David Cooper, **Lynne Landon**, Bev Seyler, Nancy Jean Smith., Julie Tedesco, Rick Thornton
2. Thorold, ON: **John Black**, Judy Collins, Philip Downey Luc Fazio, Jean Hampson, Bob Highcock, Trevor Jones, Ashley Northcotte, Dan Salisbury, John Stevens, Katherine Stoltz, Rick Young
3. Wilson, NY: **Willie D'Anna**, David Muller, Betsy Potter, Vicki Rothman, Anita Wierzba, Rachel Wilson
4. Middleport, NY: Julie Eberhart, **Marcie Jacklin**, Jonathan Weber.
5. Oak Orchard, NY: Morgan Jones, Susan O'Donnell, **Thomas O'Donnell**
6. Port Maitland, ON: **Jerry Chapple**, Nina Chapple, George Thomas, Maggie Thomas
7. Lowbanks, ON: None
8. Fort Erie, ON: Peter BonEnfant, Lorriane Brown, Lynda Goodridge, Ron Goodridge, **Marcie Jacklin**, Tim Seburn.
9. Grand Island, NY: Ann Enger, Dave Fredriks, **Michael Galas**, Sylvia Galas, **Bernie Kester**, Christopher Kundl, Scott Meier, Susan O'Donnell, Tom O'Donnell, Keegan Oneil, Jim Pawlicki.
10. Akron, NY: Donna DeLeon, Robert DeLeon, **David Gordon**.

11. Buffalo, NY: Christopher Bertola, **Mike Galas**, Becky Harbins, Brooke Morse, James Pawlicki, Richard Salembier, Ann Sawusch, Shelly Seidman, Peter Yoerg,
12. Lancaster, NY: Chris Akios, Mark Casell, Linda Holmes, **Mike Morgante**, Christina Rockwell.
13. Batavia, NY: Sarah Balduf, John Barton, **Douglas Beattie**, Sara Chase, Elaine Dart, Julia Garver, Tad Gerace, Jack Hartwig, Jodi Laird, KimMarie Markel, Karen McEachern, Jim Ochterski, Joe Salvatore, MikeScheibel, Jane Schmieder, Ginny Tiede
14. Hamburg, NY: Ken Brandes, **Fred Harrington**, Sandy Radigan, Nancy Vigyikan, Paul Vigyikan.
15. Java, NY: Sue Barth, Eli Coleman, **Seaghan Coleman**, Connie Hennessy, Judy Peets, Edward Ratajczak, Sally Uzunov
16. Angola, NY: None
17. Cattaraugus, NY: : **Bert Schweigert**
18. Delavan, NY: **Bruce Chilton**, Doug Happ, Jim Landau, Jim Wojewodzki
19. Fillmore, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: Elizabeth Oakerson, **Russell Allen**
20. Dunkirk, NY: Lake Erie Bird Club: Chris Budniewski, Raymond Budniewski, Amy Choboy, Sylvia Clarke, Paul Farver, **Joanne Goetz**, Thomas Goetz, Carol Hardenberg, Tim Lenz, Terence Mosher, Robert Peterson, Pam Rossotto, Beverly Ruska, John Ruska, Jeanine Smith, Keith Stock.
21. Cherry Creek, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: **Jim Berry**, Bill Seleen, Linda Seleen.
22. Sherman, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: **Jim Berry**, Mary Berry, **Wendy Akin**, Bill Seleen, Linda Seleen , Kirk Vanstrom
23. Frewsburg, NY: Jamestown Audubon Society: **Jim Berry**, Mary Berry, Sarah Hatfield, Julia Heilman, Twan Leenders, Ruth Lundin, Steve Maggio, Alex Shipherd, Sheila Shipherd, Bob Ungerer, Dow Watts.
24. Salamanca, NY and Allegany State Park: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha
25. Allegany, NY: Cattaraugus County Bird Club: **Tim Baird**, Mike DeSha
26. Cuba, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Russell Allen**, Denton Willett
27. Bolivar, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Russell Allen**, Alison Dickinson, Jerry Dickinson, Evelyn Ransey, Nicole Ramsey, Wilma Sanford
28. Alfred, NY: Allegany County Bird Club: **Russell Allen**, Dan Babcock, Dick Baker, Roberta Baker, Betsy Brooks, Jerry Cartledge, Mary-Lou Cartledge, Betty Chaney, **Diane Converso**, Patricia Eshelman, Peter Gradoni, Geri Hills, Ralph Hills, Barbara Kubiak, Kathleen McDonald, Ralph Peterson, Ann Pipal, J. Robert Pipal, Ken Reichman, Ernie Rositzke, Grace Rositzke, Lynn Rostizke, Joya Serio, Maureen Soule, Tara Soule, Tim Timbrook, Cindy Vance, Gerry Vance.

**Total Number of Observers: 151**



(Clockwise from top left) Lincoln's Sparrow photographed by Sue Barth at Orchard Park on October 6<sup>th</sup>, Clay-colored Sparrow photographed by VerHague at Sheridan on October 11<sup>th</sup>, and Fox Sparrow photographed by Sue Barth at Majors Park in East Aurora on October 11<sup>th</sup>.



**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **Winter/Spring Calendar and Announcements**

**Reminder: BOS membership renewal for 2016 was due February 15<sup>th</sup>. Please send your check in US funds to Karen Landau, 9195 State Road, Colden NY 14033-9626. Thanks!**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird: 716-896-1271**

**Bird Hotline: 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335**

**Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog: <http://bnnatureblog.com/>**

**Mar. 9: Wednesday. Program TBD.** Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science.

**Mar. 15 - May 15. Hamburg Hawk Watch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg** (off Camp Road between Routes 5 & 20). Stop by between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting)! Contact Jim Landau (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)).

**Mar. 26: Saturday. Lake Ontario Plains Field Trip for early migrants.** Meet at 8 AM at Tops Market in Wright's Corners. This is on the east side of Route 78 at Route 104, north of Lockport. Leader: Willie D'Anna 751-3637 or [dannapotter@roadrunner.com](mailto:dannapotter@roadrunner.com).

**Mar. 31: Due date for BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY GRANT APPLICATIONS.** Application forms can be downloaded at [www.buffaloornithologicalsociety.org/counts-and-research](http://www.buffaloornithologicalsociety.org/counts-and-research). Submit to Robert DeLeon, 381 Cadman Dr., Williamsville, NY 14221; [rldelon@yahoo.com](mailto:rldelon@yahoo.com); 716-6260325.

**April 10: Sunday. April Bird Count.** All BOS members should participate in the 80th Annual April Bird Count. Contact Compiler: Joe Fell at 716-239-1508 or [joetf1973@aol.com](mailto:joetf1973@aol.com).

**April 13: Wednesday.** Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Kathy Leacock, Collections Curator at Buffalo Museum of Science, will host a behind the scene tour of the bird specimen collection at the museum following the business meeting.

**April 16: Saturday. 9 AM. Raptor Identification workshop at Hamburg Hawk Watch (weather date: April 17th).** Meet inside the Camp Road gate and please park your car on the pavement and **not on the grass**. Dress for cool lake breezes and bring a chair for viewing comfort. Leader: Rick Bacher [rick.lord@gmail.com](mailto:rick.lord@gmail.com)

**April 24: Sunday. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory.** Meet at 9:30 AM in the parking lot at Braddock Bay State Park, 199 E Manitou Road, 14468. David Gordon will lead this joint trip with the RBA (Rochester Birding Association). Weather permitting, we will indulge in the spectacle of spring hawk migration from the hawkwatch platform. The bay should also have good numbers of waterfowl and the nearby woods may hold new arrival passerines. If owls are present, a short trip to Owl Woods

will also enliven the day! This is a full day trip so bring drinks, lunch, snacks, sunscreen and a chair (for hawk watching). Bathrooms are available at the park. Be aware that a lake breeze can develop this time of year which is a cool/cold breeze out of the north compliments of Lake Ontario. Dress appropriately. Leader David Gordon ([dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com))

**May 7: Saturday. Tifft Nature Preserve (7:30 - 11:30 AM).** This trip will focus on newly arrived neotropical migrants as well as lingering waterfowl and sparrows. We will hike the trails in search of warblers, thrushes and other long-distance migrants as well as look over the marsh for rails and bitterns. This will be an easy walk over level ground and boardwalks, possibly muddy trails. Meet at the visitor center. Leader Joe Mitchell ([josephcmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:josephcmitchell@gmail.com) 716-604-7701).



(Top) Nelson's Sparrow and (Bottom) Black-throated Green Warbler photographed by Sue Barth at Amherst State Park on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

# The Prothonotary

## BUFFALO ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Volume 81, No. 12 December 2015

### THE MONTH: November

David Gordon

As I write only my third month article, I can see that while every month is different, they are all good because the topic is the birds that were seen and the people that saw them. This month, interesting birds were viewed at the beginning, the end, and on Thanksgiving itself! Making this all the better was weather that was superbly warm and dry. Also for November, the month of Thanksgiving, I am reminded how thankful I am for my appreciation of birds, and for the people who taught me about them. I am sure that we all are thankful for how birds enrich our lives.

November is normally the month that we accept that warm weather will not return for a while and we likely cannot expect any break from the cold. The weather we did receive was a departure from the normal pattern. The Buffalo Office of the National Weather Service characterized this November as "a mild end to autumn, notable for light precipitation and a lack of snowfall". Weather statistics for the month reveal an unusually warm and dry month. It was the ninth driest and the seventh warmest November ever and included a record tying (1938) high of 73°F on the 4<sup>th</sup>. This was the warmest November reading since 2008. November had only 1.32 inches of precipitation recorded at the airport and its eleven days with measurable precipitation is below the normal of fifteen days. In fact, only three years have ever had fewer days recording a tenth of an inch or more. The only meteorological drama occurred on the 12<sup>th</sup> when a cold front with southwest winds that reached 57 mph at the airport caused minor damage at Canalside and troubled motorists along Rt. 5. Read more about this bird and people friendly weather month at <http://w2.weather.gov/climate/index.php?wfo=buf>.

Probably the bird of the month, a White-eyed Vireo, was first seen on Thanksgiving day by Lee Langenfeld at Tift Nature Preserve. Long past its expected time in the north, the bird was a treat for the many BOS'ers that came to see it. This is only the second November

report, Jim Landau stated that, "especially striking were the bright yellow "spectacles" around the eyes, continuing forward through the lores. There were brief views of a white eye around the dark pupil." Whether early, late, or just right, seeing the signature irises of the white-eyed vireo is among the most pleasant sights in local birding. I certainly remember the details of each time I have viewed this great species.



(Top) White-eyed Vireo photographed by Sue Barth at Tift Nature Preserve on November 26<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom; Niagara River Field Trip) Blue-gray Gnatcatcher photographed by Ron Goodridge at Niagara Falls, Ontario on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

- 99 **The Month**  
David Gordon
- 102 **Noteworthy Records**  
Joe Mitchell & Statisticians
- 106 **Calendar**

record for this species in our study area. In describing the bird in his verification

The Prothonotary is published monthly by the Buffalo Ornithological Society, Buffalo Museum of Science, Buffalo, NY 14211. Send address changes to Karen Landau, 9195 State Road, Colden, NY 14033.

Correspondence to:  
[skalicky@biochem.utah.edu](mailto:skalicky@biochem.utah.edu)

Editor: Jack Skalicky  
 Publishing: Audrey Horbett  
 Editorial Consultants: Willie D'Anna, Mike Morgante, Jim Pawlicki, Mike Zebehazy

#### Society Officers:

President: Michael Morgante  
 V. President: David Suggs  
 Treasurer: Robert DeLeon  
 Secretary: Debbie Suggs  
 Statisticians: Willie D'Anna  
 Alec Humann  
 Mike Morgante  
 Compiler: Joe Mitchell  
 Archivist: Audrey Horbett

#### Council:

2014-2016	Alec Humann Donna DeLeon Debbie Suggs
2015-2017	Thomas O'Donnell Bernie Kester Holly Sweeney
2016-2018	Sue Barth David Gordon David Suggs

Another bird that stretched the limits of our verification date guide was the Yellow-throated Warbler seen on the 14<sup>th</sup> by Barb Charlton in Fort Erie. The e-Bird photos do not lie and this one really misjudged its spring to early summer window within our region. Many people were happy to learn of the bird and view it

Perhaps it was the warm weather or the food supply but several other birds fell into the "what are you still doing in town" category. Willie D'Anna wrote of the Blue-gray Gnatcatcher first seen by Bill Gilmore and Mark Ansell on the 16<sup>th</sup> in the Dufferin Island area of Niagara Falls, Ontario. He noted that the bird was "smaller than

nearby chickadees with longer tail and longer thin bill. It had medium gray upper parts with little blue cast that I could see. Wings were darker with broad white edging on the inner tertials forming a patch of sorts. Ventral parts were unmarked whitish." Late also by ten days was a Pectoral Sandpiper first seen at the Kumpf Marsh of Iroquois NWR on the 27<sup>th</sup> by Joe Mitchell. Several people followed up his Geneseebirds posting and went to see the bird. All three of the verification reports submitted noted the brown streaking ending on the white belly of the bird. In addition to having three of our sharper minds – Bob DeLeon, Landau, and Celeste Morien analyzing it, the bird received the added exposure that foraging alone in an open marsh permitted. Hope to see pectorals there in the future!

Two Genesee County Savannah Sparrows were late leaving also. Ethan Gyllenhaal and Greg Lawrence found one at the Batavia WWTP on the 8<sup>th</sup> and Doug Beattie saw one on Gorton Road on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Both referred to the presence of yellow lores and the Batavia bird vocalized. Doug's report stated that "along with the white underparts, with breast and flank streaks, no other sparrow has this combination that I know of. The beak and wings were typical dark marks on lighter brown. Ear patch behind the eye wasn't as distinct as I'm used to seeing, but it was present. No unusual features such as color or markings would raise suspicion that it was anything but a Savannah."



(Top) Blue-gray Gnatcatcher photographed by Willie D'Anna at Niagara Falls, Ontario on November 28<sup>th</sup>, (Middle) Pectoral Sandpiper photographed by Joe Mitchell at Iroquois NWR on November 27<sup>th</sup>, and (Bottom) Parasitic Jaeger photographed by Sue Barth at the Niagara River on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak, most often thought of as a bird of spring, nest in the region but should fly south by late October. Not so this Chautauqua County bird. Perhaps thankful for the warm weather and the hospitality of Dale Mirth of Pomfret, this bird ate from the feeders and basked in the sun for the entire month! A photo of the bird by Andrea Andrews confirmed it. Check back here in December for an update.

What about those good, hardworking, honest vagrants that periodically end up in the area by ill winds or faulty navigation? November did not disappoint here either. Our feathered friends mentioned are somewhat frequent visitors but a pleasant surprise anyway. Who doesn't like hearing the wrong sound coming from a crow and then, and after your surprise, you declare, "it's a Fish Crow!" Gavin Platt had such a moment on the 15<sup>th</sup> picking out a single bird flying over central Buffalo with a group of American Crows heading for their roost. Nathan Miller had a similar experience on the 15<sup>th</sup> with multiple Fish Crows flying with their American cousins in Fort Erie, Ontario. They appeared to be trying to steer the group back to the border. Now, for the more seriously confused birds, *hirundinidae* watchers look out for the Cave swallow to wander in during the late fall. When we check the field marks and are sure its not a Cliff Swallow, we declare "its a Cave Swallow!" Their north-most, winter range extends to mid-Texas so why they come every few years to our area the Barn Swallows have been trying to tell us but we can't understand them any better. Willie and Celeste sighted two on the 12<sup>th</sup> over Lake Ontario near Golden Hill State Park. Wille reported, "as we were sitting and watching the lake, I noticed a swallow (small size, triangular wings, irregular flight) right in front of and above us and got Celeste on it. It seemed slightly smaller than a Purple Martin and about the size of a Rough-winged Swallow. It had a pale buffy throat that merged into the pale breast and belly, was dark above, and it had a square-tipped tail." Bingo!

Another great sighting was the first ever Allegany County record of Franklin's Gull first seen on the 15<sup>th</sup> by Tim Lenz near Cuba Lake. Tim reported that "as a blinding snowstorm approached, about a hundred Bonaparte's Gulls dropped out of the sky. Among them I observed a slightly larger, darker-mantled bird. Horrible whiteout conditions precluded [a confirming ID] and more careful observation was needed; I was able to make it to the lake the next morning at dawn to confirm THREE Franklin's Gulls on the lake." Reflecting this significance, BOS statistician Mike Morgante commented, "very rare; first Allegany county record, part of unprecedented movements into the Northeast."

Two new birds were added to the region's year list, the Cave Swallow and a Black-headed Gull, to bring the total to 287 species. November did not disappoint as we had a memorable month of birds. I hope you take advantage of this month and its great birds with us next year. Thank you for this opportunity to share our month with you. Best wishes for great birding!



(Top to Bottom) Snowy Owl photographed by Kayo Roy at Fonthill, Ontario on November 28<sup>th</sup>, Yellow-throated Warbler photographed by Barbara Charlton at Ft. Erie, Ontario on November 14<sup>th</sup>, Northern Mockingbird photographed by Sue Barth at Tifft Nature Preserve on November 26<sup>th</sup>, and White-throated Sparrow photographed by Sue Barth at Majors Park at East Aurora on November 17<sup>th</sup>.

# NOTEWORTHY RECORDS

Underlined common names, dates or localities indicate that an acceptable written verification according to the Verification Date Guide to the Birds of Western New York and Adjacent Ontario (9th Edition - Revised 2012) has been received and placed in the permanent files of the Buffalo Ornithological Society. Underlines of numbers of birds indicate unusually high counts for the species. Such numbers must be accompanied by detailed notes on the observations including counting methods used by observers.

\* = First record for the year.

F - First record for the migration.

L - Last record for the migration.

(f) - Indicates feeding station; (n) Record of a nest; (yg) Record of nestling or fledgling.

(imm or juv) Indicates immature or juvenile. PV - Indicates Previously Documented

Please mail NWRs for each month not later than the FIFTH day of the following month to the Compiler: Joe Mitchell, 2269 Crittenden Road, Alden, NY 14004; Email: [bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com](mailto:bosnoteworthyrecords@gmail.com) (effective November 1, 2014).

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Gr. White-fronted Goose	7-20	7	Iroquois NWR	Morien et al
"	25	1	Point Breeze	Lawrence; Gullo
Snow Goose	8, 10	5; 4	Gypsum Pond	Wasilco et al; McGann
"	12, 16; 30	4, 4; 3	Lyndonville	Morien; Sharon
"	13	6	Shelby	Morien
"	21	2	Porter	D'Anna
"	25	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
Brant	7	8	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
Cackling Goose	1; 5; 10	1; 2; 1	Gypsum Pond	Lawrence; Wasilco; McGann
"	9; 17; 20	10; 8; 5	Iroquois NWR	Hess; Morien; Nichols
"	10	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	19	6	Batavia WWTP	Ragan
"	23, 28	10, 1	Sinking Ponds WS	Holmes
Mute Swan	23	5	Wilson-Tuscarora SP	D'Anna
Tundra Swan	15; 28	62; 175	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Thomas; Dupont
"	21	11	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	22	12	Batavia WWTP	Humann
"	25	150	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
"	29	139	Ellery	Seleen
Wood Duck	10; 25	56; 45	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien; Wasilco
"	29	1	Sinking Ponds WS	Morgante
Gadwall	1	60	Niagara River - Buffalo	D'Anna, Barth
"	6, 24	328, 127	Iroquois NWR	Morien
American Wigeon	1	115	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
"	6, 24	202, 70	Iroquois NWR	Morien
American Black Duck	10; 25	22; 25	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien; Wasilco
Blue-winged Teal	1	1	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
"	8; 14L	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal; Beattie
Northern Shoveler	10; 23	296; 301	Batavia WWTP	Morien; Beattie
Northern Pintail	1	40	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
"	10	36	Batavia WWTP	Morien; McGann
"	10	31	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
Green-winged Teal	1	140	Tonawanda WMA	Lawrence
"	4	76	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	25	65	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
Canvasback	6	6	Goat Island	D'Anna
"	12	7	Buffalo Harbor	Seidman
Redhead	27	135	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Humann, Dupont
"	28	60	Yates	McGann
Ring-necked Duck	14	22	Cuba Lake	Lenz
"	14	20	North Harmony	Lenz
"	15	37	Niagara Falls	D'Anna, Thomas
"	25	19	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
Greater Scaup	6	48	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	8	48	Wilson	D'Anna
"	13	103	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morien, Barth
"	15	65	Dunkirk Harbor	Mosher

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
Lesser Scaup	1; 17	11; 13	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence; Horsey
King Eider	30	1	Fifty Point Park, Ont.	Turland
Harlequin Duck	7-28	3	Goat Island	Kundl et al
"	12	2	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
"	28, 29	1	Lewiston	D'Anna et al
Surf Scoter	1; 12	12; 7	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Humann
"	8	4	Wilson	D'Anna
White-winged Scoter	1; 6	23; 40	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Pawlicki
"	8	66	Wilson	D'Anna
Black Scoter	1; 12	2; 3	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Humann
"	8	4	Wilson	D'Anna
"	28	3	Yates	McGann
Long-tailed Duck	1; 6	305; 800	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Pawlicki
"	2	431	Wilson	D'Anna
"	13	276	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morien, Barth
Bufflehead	1; 27	450; 600	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Morien
"	14	232	North Harmony	Lenz
Common Goldeneye	21	130	North Harmony	Vanstrom
"	29	375	Niagara Falls	Kachala
<u>Barrow's Goldeneye</u>	25; 29	1	Point Breeze	Mattle, Miles; Thomas et al
Hooded Merganser	21	70	North Harmony	Vanstrom
"	21	60	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz
"	24	113	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	27	52	Tifft NP	Humann, Dupont
Red-breasted Merganser	8	607	Wilson	D'Anna
"	12	403	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morien
"	29	400	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
Ruddy Duck	5	8	Wilson	D'Anna
"	8; 14	304; 349	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal; Beattie
"	21	850	Lakewood	Vanstrom
"	26, 29	367; 500	Ellery	Seleen
Red-throated Loon	12	144	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morien
"	16	122	Shadigee	Morien
"	21	45	Wilson	D'Anna
Common Loon	2	67	Wilson	D'Anna
"	7	54	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	13	62	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morien, Barth
Horned Grebe	16	109	Shadigee	Morien
"	24	45	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
Red-necked Grebe	2	1	Cuba Lake	R&D Rosche
"	12	32	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morien
"	29	1	Allegany SP	Cooney Jr.
Eared Grebe	1-23	1-2	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence et al
American Bittern	11L	1	Buffalo	Belke
Great Egret	13, 24, 28	2	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann et al
"	28	2	Unity (Squaw) Island	Coleman
Black-cr. Night-Heron	1	12	Unity (Squaw) Island	Pawlicki
Black Vulture	15; 26	12	Lewiston	Berg; B&B Morse
Turkey Vulture	16; 26	47; 68	Lewiston	Gibson, Rayner; B&B Morse
Osprey	3	1	Lewiston	Kester, Lewis
"	26L	1	Shelby	Morien
Bald Eagle	13	4	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
Rough-legged Hawk	7F; 8	1; 2	Alabama	Bacher; D&D Suggs
"	8	1	Iroquois NWR	D&D Suggs
"	15	1	Sherman	Lenz
"	28	1	Yates	McGann
"	28	1	Somerset	Howe
American Coot	2, 23	65, 45	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	8, 29	400, 200	Mayville	Goetz
Sandhill Crane	10	3	Oak Orchard WMA	Morien
"	29	3	Alabama	Landau, Thomas, Rybczynski
Killdeer	27-30	2	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; Landau et al; Morien
Spotted Sandpiper	15L	1	Porter	Sharon
Greater Yellowlegs	4; 20	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Giambrone

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
White-rumped Sandpiper	8L	1	Iroquois NWR	D&D Suggs
Pectoral Sandpiper	<u>27- 30</u>	1	Iroquois NWR	Mitchell; DeLeon; Landau; Morien
Dunlin	7	24	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	7	7	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
Wilson's Snipe	7	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
American Woodcock	5, 7, 11	5, 2, 2	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
"	11	1	Ashford	Rosenburg
Black-legged Kittiwake	1	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, DiTomasso; Thomas
"	1	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Vandermeulen
"	1	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Kundl
"	18	1	Robert Moses Power Plant	Kundl
Sabine's Gull	1	1 juv	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, DiTomasso et al
"	9	1	Goat Island	Kundl
Bonaparte's Gull	1	900	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, Mitchell
"	1	2000	Devils Hole SP	D'Anna, Morien
"	1	3000	Goat Island	D'Anna, Morien
"	14	500	Dunkirk Harbor	Lenz
"	28	1500	Robert Moses Power Plant	Morien
* Black-headed Gull	9	1	Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont.	Vandermeulen
"	30	1	Robert Moses Power Plant	Kundl
Little Gull	1; 6; 13	3	Unity (Squaw) Island	Kundl; Harbison; Barton
"	1	2	Niagara Falls	Potter, D'Anna
"	7; 11	1; 1	Dunkirk Harbor	Goetz; VerHague
"	13	9	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
Franklin's Gull	13, 14	1, 4	Cuba Lake	Lenz
"	13	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Humann
"	14	1	Barcelona Harbor	Lenz
Iceland Gull	13F	3	Goat Island	Kundl
"	14	1	Shadigee	Ewald
Lesser Black-backed Gull	7; 26	5; 4	Goat Island	Pawlicki; B&B Morse
"	15	1	Cuba Lake	Lenz
"	27	5	Adam Beck Hydro, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Glaucous Gull	12F	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence
"	27	1	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Humann, Dupont
"	29	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	D'Anna et al
Common Tern	1L	2	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, DiTomasso, Mitchell
Parasitic Jaeger	1; 13	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, Mitchell et al; Humann
"	12	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Holden
Snowy Owl	21	2	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Humann
"	28	1	Fonthill, Ont.	Roy
Barred Owl	27, 28	1	Tifft NP	Humann et al
Short-eared Owl	9	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
"	14-29	2-3	Shelby	Morien et al
Red-headed Woodpecker	2; 25	1; 2	Point Gratiot	Andrle, J&K Landau; VerHague
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	8	1	Iroquois NWR	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	21	1	Emery Park	Morien, Barth
Merlin	6	1	Buffalo Harbor	Gullo
"	7	1	Forestville	VerHague
"	7	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
"	21	1	Wilson	D'Anna
"	23	1	Amherst	Sawusch
"	29	1	Iroquois NWR	Landau et al
Peregrine Falcon	1, 23, 24	1	Dunkirk Harbor	VerHague
"	1; 12	1	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki, Mitchell; Humann
"	1	1	Unity (Squaw) Island	Morien, Barth
"	6; 24	2	Buffalo Harbor	Gullo; Seidman
"	19	1	Wilson	D'Anna, Potter
"	20	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
"	25	1	Lewiston	Morse
Northern Shrike	5	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
"	7, 20; 29	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien; Landau et al
"	24	1	Alabama	Blakita
"	24	1	Porter	Sharon

<u>Species</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Observer(s)</u>
"	24	1	Fort Niagara SP	Sharon
White-eyed Vireo	<u>26-27</u>	1	Tift NP	Langenfeld et al; Landau
<u>Fish Crow</u>	15	1	Buffalo	Platt
"	15	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Miller
Common Raven	6	2	Niagara River - Buffalo	Pawlicki
"	16	2	Tonawanda	M&S Galas
* <u>Cave Swallow</u>	12	2	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morien
Marsh Wren	4	1	Iroquois NWR	Morien
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	<u>16; 28, 29</u>	2	Niagara Falls, Ont.	Gibson, Rayner; D'Anna et al
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	3	4	Forest Lawn Cemetery	Seidman
"	4	2	Forestville	VerHague
"	4	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
Hermit Thrush	4	1	Amherst SP	Pawlicki, Salembier
"	8	1	Tift NP	Hauser
"	29	1	Jamestown	Leenders
Gray Catbird	1; 27; 28	1	Tift NP	Seidman; Rose-Burney et al
"	8	1	Lakeside Beach SP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	15; 23	3; 1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Berg; Burrell
"	28	1	Yates	McGann
American Pipit	8	45	Iroquois NWR	D&D Suggs
"	29	17	Shelby	Morien, Rybczynski
Lapland Longspur	1	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence
"	7	1	Fort Niagara SP	Pawlicki
"	14	1	Cuba Lake	Lenz
Snow Bunting	8	135	Wilson	D'Anna
"	10	50	Batavia WWTP	McGann
"	21	33	Buffalo – Outer Harbor	Humann
Yellow-rumped Warbler	9	1	Andover	Brooks
"	12-20	3-8	Buckhorn Island SP	Humann
Yellow-throated Warbler	<u>14</u>	1	Fort Erie, Ont.	Robins, Miller, Charlton
Eastern Towhee	2	1	Wilson	Potter
Field Sparrow	5	1	West Seneca	Yerkovich
Savannah Sparrow	<u>8</u>	1	Batavia WWTP	Lawrence, Gyllenhaal
"	<u>11</u>	1	Alabama	Beattie
Fox Sparrow	4-21	1-2	Reports from 11 locations	Multiple Observers
White-crowned Sparrow	5	1	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
"	9, 12, 20	12, 8, 5	Lakeside Beach SP	Bemont
"	12	1	Golden Hill SP	D'Anna, Morien
"	16	2	Yates	Morien
"	28	1	Carlton	McGann
<u>Dark-eyed Junco (Oregon)</u>	1-30	1 PV	Colden	J&K Landau
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	<u>16; 23, 27, 29</u>	1	Pomfret	Mirth; Andrews
Red-winged Blackbird	6	130	Pembroke	Beattie
"	15	100	Sinking Ponds WS	Morgante
"	25	2200	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
Rusty Blackbird	5	25	Oak Orchard WMA	Wasilco
"	7	55	Watts Flats WMA	Berry
"	11	207	Shelby	Morien
"	21	3	Buckhorn Island SP	Sharon
Common Grackle	15	50	Sinking Ponds WS	Morgante
Brown-headed Cowbird	11	317	Shelby	Morien
Common Redpoll	27	1	Tift NP	Yoerg
Pine Siskin	5	8	Sinking Ponds WS	Holmes
"	13	1	Colden	J&K Landau
"	14	3	Cuba Lake	Lenz

Species, subspecies, and named hybrids previously recorded this year: 285

Species, subspecies, and hybrids new for the month: 2

Total for the year (to date) 2015: 287



**[www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org](http://www.BuffaloOrnithologicalSociety.org)**

## **Winter/Spring Calendar and Announcements**

**Buffalo-Niagara Regions Dial-a-Bird:** 716-896-1271

**Bird Hotline:** 1-877-698-3261 or 866-321-4255 or 614-384-2335

**Buffalo-Niagara Region Nature Blog:** <http://bnnatureblog.com/>

**Mar. 15 - May 15. Hamburg Hawk Watch at Lakeside Memorial Park in Hamburg** (off Camp Road between Routes 5 & 20). Stop by between 10 AM and 3 PM (weather permitting)! Contact Jim Landau (716-941-3869 or [landaujr@gmail.com](mailto:landaujr@gmail.com)).

**April 10: Sunday. April Bird Count.** All BOS members should participate in the 80th Annual April Bird Count. Contact Compiler: Celeste Morien at [celeste.morien@gmail.com](mailto:celeste.morien@gmail.com)

**April 13: Wednesday.** Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Kathy Leacock, Collections Curator at Buffalo Museum of Science, will host a behind the scene tour of the bird specimen collection at the museum following the business meeting.

**April 16: Saturday. 9 AM. Raptor ID workshop at Hamburg Hawk Watch (weather date: April 17th).** Meet inside the Camp Road gate and please park your car on the pavement and **not on the grass**. Dress for cool lake breezes and bring a chair for viewing comfort. Leader: Rick Bacher [rick.lord@gmail.com](mailto:rick.lord@gmail.com)

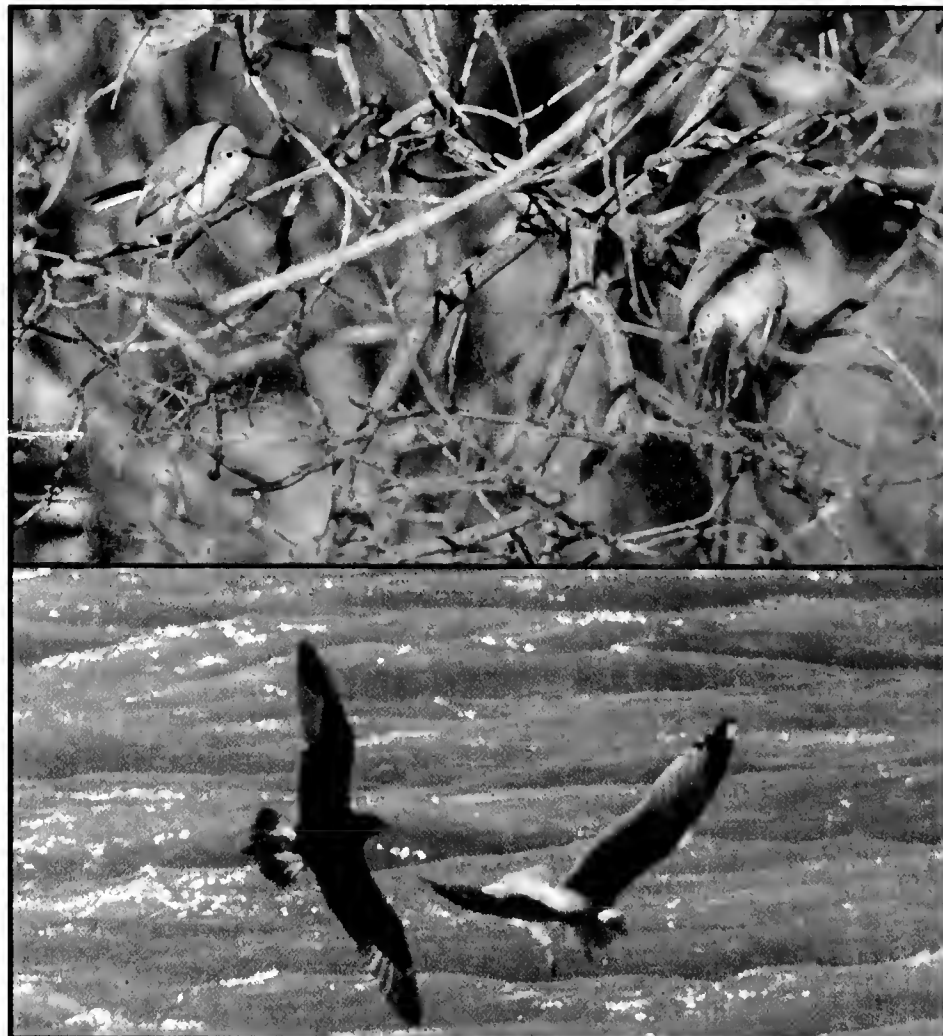
**April 24: Sunday. Braddock Bay Bird Observatory.** Meet at 9:30 AM in the parking lot at Braddock Bay State Park, 199 E Manitou Road, 14468. Those wishing to carpool may meet at 7 AM at the Wrights Corner Tops Market at Route 78 and 104. David Gordon will lead this joint trip with the Rochester Birding Association. Weather permitting, we will indulge in the spectacle of spring hawk migration. The bay should also have good numbers of waterfowl and the nearby woods may hold new arrival passerines. This is a full day trip so bring drinks, lunch, snacks, sunscreen and a chair (for hawk watching). Bathrooms are available at the park. Dress for cool weather. Leader David Gordon ([dgordonphoto@yahoo.com](mailto:dgordonphoto@yahoo.com))

**May 7: Saturday. Tiff Nature Preserve (7:30 - 11:30 AM).** This trip will focus on newly arrived neotropical migrants as well as lingering waterfowl and sparrows. This will be an easy walk over level ground and boardwalks, possibly muddy trails. Meet at the visitor center. Leader Joe Mitchell ([josephcmitchell@gmail.com](mailto:josephcmitchell@gmail.com) 716-604-7701).

**May 11: Wednesday.** Buffalo Ornithological Society meeting at 7:00 PM in the Jaeger Room of the Buffalo Museum of Science. Presenter will be Darryl McGrath. Darryl is a journalist living in Albany, New York. She has written about upstate New York's environment and rural regions for over twenty years and has won numerous awards for her reporting. She will reflect on several topics from her new book "Flight Paths".

**May 15: Sunday. May Bird Count.** Please participate. Contact Compiler: Robert DeLeon at [rldeleon@yahoo.com](mailto:rldeleon@yahoo.com) or 716-626-0325.

**May 21: Saturday. 7:30 AM.** Marcy's Woods, Port Colbourne, Ontario. Meet at 7:30 AM at the south end of Holloway Bay Road (between Sherkston and Point Abino). Come join the BOS for a walk through this remnant Carolinian Forest and ancient dune community located at the NW corner of Point Abino, Ontario. Local rarities such as Cerulean and Hooded Warblers have nested here in the past and Red-headed Woodpeckers still do. This will be a 1/2 day trip. PLEASE REMEMBER to bring proper identification for the border crossing. For more information, visit [www.marcyswoods.ca](http://www.marcyswoods.ca). A big thank you to Marcie Jacklin for organizing this trip! Leader: Marcie Jacklin [mjacklin@brocku.ca](mailto:mjacklin@brocku.ca)



(Top) Blue-gray Gnatcatchers photographed by Ron Goodridge at Niagara Falls, Ontario on November 29<sup>th</sup> and (Bottom) Parasitic Jaeger photographed by Sue Barth at Niagara River on November 1<sup>st</sup>.